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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1987

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THE WORLD THIS MORNING



Soviet pledge

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): President Reagan said yesterday that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told him he wanted the central American peace plan to go forward and pledged to withhold aid from the Nicaraguan government.

PLO team

CAIRO, (Reuters): President Mubarak received a Palestinian delegation yesterday, amid reports that PLO leader Yasser Arafat would visit Cairo for the first time since April last year.

Rajiv in Rangoon

RANGOON, (AP): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi arrived in Rangoon yesterday for a short visit and was greeted at the airport by Prime Minister Maung Maung Kha.

Tornado

WEST MEMPHIS, Arkansas, (Reuters): At least four people were killed and scores injured when a Tornado ripped through this Mississippi river city on Monday night, police and hospital officials said.

Heavy fighting

ISLAMABAD, (Reuters): Soviet and government forces are fighting to break a rebel siege in the east Afghan province of Paktia, Western diplomatic sources said.

Fire kills 13

MOMBASA, (Reuters): Thirteen people were killed when the Kenyan coaster Tawaka caught fire off Kiunga near the Somali border on Monday, the ship's owners said.

Peace talks

PARIS, (Reuters): Exiled Kampuchean leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday he was ready to resume peace talks with the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government.

Support Palestinian uprising: Amir

HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, said yesterday he was proud of Palestinian protests against the Israeli forces on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and called for Islamic support for the demonstrators.

At least 10 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces. He said in a statement issued in his capacity as chairman of the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference: "Our Islamic and humanitarian duty motivates us to take all measures toward halting these inhuman (Israeli) practices and to adopt a collective attitude in support of the legitimate rights of our brethren in the occupied Palestinian lands."

Message

The Amir said in the message, addressed to the leaders of the OIC member states, that Islamic heads of state should "utilise all available means in support of the uprising of the Palestinian people against the brutal Israeli practices" and "oppressive measures".

He said he "was proud of ... what the Palestinians are currently doing which demonstrates to the world and the Zionist enemy their adamant rejection of occupation and their determination to regain all their inalienable rights."

Israeli troops shot dead at least two Palestinians and wounded several others yesterday, in the occupied Gaza Strip amid growing international condemnation of Israel's use of force on the seventh successive day of anti-Israeli unrest.

Chief Army spokesman General Ephraim Lapid told Reuters Israeli troops shot dead one Palestinian in Beit Hanoun, a Palestinian refugee camp and another in the northern village of Beit Hanoun.

Palestinian sources said a third protester was killed and three seriously wounded when Israeli troops stormed Shifa Hospital in Gaza.

In Gaza City, about 50 soldiers spent 20 minutes brutally dispersing Arab protesters from the grounds of Shifa Hospital. They charged inside the building to chase out teenagers who ran for cover, according to an Associated Press photographer at the scene.

Troops kicked and punched Palestinian youths, detaining dozens, the photographer said. One youth was seen being dragged by his hair to an Israeli Army truck, where he fell to his knees.

Soldiers pulled a second youth whose shirt was covered with blood from an Army command car to a stretcher held by

orderlies who took him into the hospital.

It was unclear if yet another Palestinian was shot dead in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis despite reports from military sources of a fatality there.

"There are not less than 700 wounded," Khalil Al Wazir, the PLO's deputy military chief, told reporters in Amman.

The United States has joined international condemnation of Israel's methods of combating the riots.

The unrest has been described as a popular revolt by Palestinians made desperate by 20 years of Israeli occupation.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said in US congressional testimony that security measures imposed by Israel were "sometimes inconsistent with recognised international standards," adding that Washington was concerned with Israel's use of "excessive force" to contain demonstrators.

Israeli right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted by National Religious Party (NRP) leaders who met him today as saying Murphy's comments were "a payment to the Arabs."

Condemned

The Arab League, at an emergency session yesterday condemned Israeli massacres of Arabs and Palestinians during violent protests in Arab territories against Israeli occupation.

The meeting of the 21-member Arab League, which was requested by the PLO, issued an urgent call to the UN to protect Palestinians.

France, China and the United Nations have joined the Arab world in condemning Israel's policies over 1.4 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israeli troops blocked the entrances to several refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, including Mugazi and Deir El-Balah, which was under curfew.

An UN official said the escalating violence appeared due in part to harassment by Israeli troops patrolling Gaza refugee camps.

In two instances, soldiers tied blindfolded Palestinian boys to the hoods of their jeeps to prevent stone-throwing as they toured Jelazoun refugee camp, the official said.

In Arab East Jerusalem, Palestinian shopkeepers shuttered their stores to protest Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon's controversial purchase of an apartment in the Muslim quarter of the walled old city.



Armed Israeli soldiers drag a Palestinian youth from his house during a sweep through the town of Khan Yunis following violent demonstrations. (Reuters radiophoto)

Khomeini reported ill, meets people

NICOSIA, Dec 15, (Reuters): Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, reported in the West to be ill, received relatives of the country's war dead at a mosque in Tehran today, Tehran Radio said.

The radio, monitored by the BBC, said Khomeini met the families of soldiers killed, taken prisoner or missing in action in the seven-year war against Iraq.

The report of the meeting at the Jamaran Mosque gave no indication that Khomeini spoke to the relatives but said that at the end he "responded to the sentiments of those present."

The Times of London reported today that foreign doctors had flown to Tehran to treat Khomeini for a serious illness.

The Times quoted unidentified Iranian sources as saying the medical team, including a British doctor and two Austrians, left Vienna on Sunday and was expected to be taken to see Khomeini at a small hospital next to his headquarters in a northern Tehran suburb.

But Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Hossein Kazempour Ardebil denied rumours at the Opec conference in Vienna that Khomeini was ill.

Tehran residents contacted by telephone yesterday said the capital appeared normal.

Hussein's visit

MOSCOW, Dec 15, (UPI): Jordan's King Hussein is scheduled to make an official visit to the Soviet Union next week, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today, in another indication that the Kremlin is re-establishing itself as a power broker in the Middle East.

Spokesman Boris Pyadyshev told a Moscow news conference the Kremlin attaches "much importance" to Hussein's visit scheduled to begin Dec 21. The exact length of the King's visit, his first to the Soviet Union in almost five years, has not been made public by the ministry.

Opec maintains \$18 oil price

VIENNA, Dec 15, (Reuters): Opec, with the single but significant dissenting voice of Iraq, agreed to try to enforce \$18 oil last night for another six months.

Twelve of the 13 member states agreed to pitch their output ceiling for the first six months of next year at 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd) and to keep charging \$18 a barrel after one of the most politicised conferences in recent years.

The pact will be put to the test in coming weeks as sceptical traders, already marking prices down, watch to see whether the group pumps more than the world needs.

Traders doubt whether the group will be able to control excess output that pushes prices down.

Revenue

While ministers congratulated themselves for reaching some kind of agreement — a complete breakdown seemed possible at one stage — they questioned whether members seeking more oil revenue would keep their production at Opec-assigned quotas.

"At least we have something called an accord with 12 signatures," Ecuadorian Oil Minister Fernando Santos Alvide said. "But any cheating on prices or production spells disaster."

The pact, which excludes Iraq, was a compromise between Gulf Arab states Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which wanted a higher ceiling and low enough prices to lure customers, and Iran which wants a two-dollar rise to offset falls in the dollar's value.

Iran signed the Opec accord only to prevent further instability in the oil market, Iranian Oil Ministry Gholamreza Aghazadeh said today.

The Iranian news agency Irna said Aghazadeh told a news conference in Tehran that he left the group's ministerial session yesterday "in protest" and returned to Tehran to consult his government on whether to sign the accord.

"But since Iran has always worked for unity and strengthening of the organisation, Iranian authorities decided it was better to sign the session's agreement," Aghazadeh said.

The agreement was signed by Iran's Deputy Oil Minister Hossein Kazempour Ardebil.

Traders who anticipated that the accord would be marked down oil prices on the spot market to 10-month lows yesterday.

Brent crude from the North Sea, a barometer of prices, plunged one dollar to around \$16.50.

(Continued on Page 12)

AIDS fear leads to monogamy

NEW YORK, Dec 15, (AP): The fear of contracting AIDS is steering women toward monogamy, celibacy and an insistence that their partners wear condoms, a survey commissioned by Glamour magazine shows.

The survey, released yesterday, found that the spread of AIDS has made more women fearful of a possible epidemic among heterosexuals. Of the 800 women surveyed nationwide by telephone, 71 per cent expressed such a fear, compared with 56 per cent last year.

Of the single women surveyed, seven out of 10 said they have become more cautious about sex because of AIDS. Of those women, two out of three said they were more selective about sexual partners and 21 per cent said they insist on their partners wearing condoms.

The survey also found that 11 per cent of women who said the fear of AIDS changed their sex lives indicated they had become celibate. Another 22 per cent said they opted for monogamy.

Politics and high society mix at Benazir's marriage

Pakistan's social event of the decade

KARACHI, Dec 15, (Reuters): Pakistani high society and politics come together in Karachi on Friday for what the country's jet-set anticipates, will be the social event of the decade — Benazir Bhutto's wedding.

The 34-year-old Pakistani opposition leader's arranged marriage to the scion of a Sindhi land-owning family is a step in the dark for her politically, as well as personally.

Karachi rumour-mills are working overtime on every detail from the wedding dress to the guest list. But friends, servants, even the bridegroom's family, are under strict instructions from

the strong-willed bride to keep the public guessing.

Little leaks out of the Bhutto family home at 70 Clifton, to satisfy the public appetite for news, except for the occasional official denial of the wilder stories published.

On Saturday, for example, a spokesman knocked down a local press report that Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi had given the couple a Cessna light plane as a wedding present.

While gossips chew over the guest list, Benazir's marriage to Asif Zardari, 34, a polo-playing businessman, has set political pundits arguing how it will affect her popularity.

Officially her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) says it will make no difference. Benazir promises to continue the fight against President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq as energetically as ever.

Charisma

Some commentators and diplomats say she is Pakistan's most popular politician purely because she is the daughter and political heir of the man Zia deposed, executed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Others say her crowd-pulling charisma is at least partly due to being attractive and unmarried in an overwhelmingly Muslim

Greek tanker fired on by frigate

Iranian attack triggers blast

DUBAI, Dec 15, (Reuters): An Iranian frigate fired on a Greek tanker which failed to respond to a radio warning in the southern Gulf today and sparked a massive blast which forced the crew to abandon ship, shipping sources said.

The frigate said "respond or I will open fire," one source said. "He said it three times. There was no response. Then he opened up with his five-inch gun."

Spotted

A huge explosion ripped open the deck of the tanker, on its way to load oil at Ras Tanurah in Saudi Arabia, but no one was hurt.

The sources said the US destroyer Chandler was close to the Ariadne — it was spotted half a mile away after the explosion — but took no action because its rules of engagement prohibit defence of a non-American ship.

The shipping sources, who said earlier this week the Iranians were using a new but so far unidentified incendiary weapon in the tanker war, said the frigate opened fire after shadowing the Ariadne for seven hours.

They said it began following the tanker after speedboats of the Revolutionary Guard sprayed it with machine-gun fire in a raid just after dawn, starting a small fire which the crew put out unassisted.

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Dhaka opposition calls for strikes

DHAKA, Dec 15, (Agencies): Opposition leaders here called for two days of nation-wide strikes in the campaign to force President Hossain Mohammad Ershad out of office.

The call for dawn-to-dusk strikes on Dec 21 and 22 was announced after a meeting of a liaison committee for a score of political parties. The committee reiterated opposition demands for Ershad's resignation.

The opposition began a series of protests and strikes Nov 10 to attempt to force Ershad to resign.

Refused

The former Army general has steadfastly refused to step aside, but he promised to conduct a parliamentary election by March 5 — a move that would keep him in power while installing a new legislature. On Dec 6, Ershad dissolved the old Parliament.

Ershad has decided to ease a state of emergency ban on rallies to allow his opponents to celebrate Victory Day tomorrow.

"All meetings and rallies can be held on the occasion of the Victory Day on Dec 16, but no procession or demonstration will be permitted," the BSS news agency said quoting an official.

Dr Karno arrives

SYRIA'S Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dr Omar Karno arrived in Kuwait last evening for an official five-day visit.

"They have been hunting her all day," one source said.

The sources said most of the crew abandoned ship in lifeboats after the explosion and the rest were taken off by fire-fighting tugs which rushed to the scene. All were now on the big supply vessel Pacific Claymore.

The captain, the last to leave the battered Ariadne, was picked up by a rescue helicopter. But the helicopter developed engine trouble and nearly crashed into the sea before landing on the Pacific Claymore, the sources said.

They said tugs would try to tow the tanker to Dubai, which has major repair facilities including a big dry dock.

The sources surmised that the Iranians were using a new incendiary weapon after major fires broke out on two tankers attacked last week.

Burned

One of them, the Norman Atlantic, an 85,129-tonne Singapore-registered naphtha carrier, burned for four days before becoming the first tanker to sink since the Iran-Iraq war spilled over into shipping lanes six years ago.

The other ship, the 232,164-tonne Cypriot supertanker Pivot, burned for hours before seven fire-fighting tugs could douse the blaze.

Today's attacks on the Ariadne followed reports from Norwegian shipping officials that 21 members of an Iranian tanker, the Susangird, were killed in missile attacks by the Iraqi Air Force last week.

announcement

The day celebrates the surrender of Pakistani Army to the joint command of Indian forces and Bangladeshi liberation fighters in 1971, culminating in the country's independence.

Ershad's move to allow opposition parties to join the victory celebrations is apparently intended to lure them to peace talks he has proposed to resolve the worst crisis in his nearly six years of power.

Main opposition leaders including Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia have already rejected Ershad's offers.

They said in identical statements today there would be no elections or talks until Ershad stepped down and transferred power to an independent caretaker government.

Reliable sources said the opposition parties are divided on whether to sit with Ershad and take part in elections while he still remains in office.

"Ershad must resign," Hasina told a rally of more than 3,500 people in the northern outskirts of Dhaka marking "Martyred Intellectuals Day".

DAY BY DAY

KHALED Al Marzouk represents one of Kuwait's national economic arsenals. His enormous amount of money has not kept him from loving his country and his proposal to construct a group of satellite cities overlooking the sea would make profits available to all national financial establishments participating in the project.

We hope that the government will consider this proposal, which could turn out to be a gift of the private sector to the country. It is correct that the private sector would profit from the project, but others would benefit from it as well. Remember that America was built by the private sector, before the state stepped in.

The idea really deserves serious consideration, especially since it comes from a man who is well-known for his love of his country.

Zahed Matar

INSIDE

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

امریکی کنگس کی شہریت

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S. Koreans doubt polls will be fair

SEOUL, Dec 15. (Reuters): Many South Koreans believe that Wednesday's presidential election will be rigged, and foreign observers and the opposition will be watching closely for signs of fraud during the voting and counting.

The military-backed government has assured voters that it will not interfere to help the ruling party's candidate, but the election campaign has already been full of accusations of irregularities.

"There have been a lot of signs of election manipulation by the ruling party even during the campaign, so why not during the election itself?" said a 28-year-old restaurant owner.

The main candidates, former General Roh Tae-Woo and opposition rivals Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung, are running such a close race that even a small amount of vote-rigging could make the difference, political analysts say.

"I don't trust anyone, either the ruling party or the opposition," said a waitress. "I have

been watching the campaign, and I think fair voting and vote-counting is hard to expect."

The opposition has accused the government of misusing funds and of pressuring civil servants and others to support Roh.

The government has responded with accusations that the opposition leaders are planning violence to disrupt the voting.

One area which the opposition complains is particularly open to manipulation is the absentee voting by the 600,000 members of the armed forces, who have already voted.

There have been reports that some commanding officers insisted on having troops fill in ballot papers in their presence.

"I think the absentee (military) ballots are very important in this election and I don't think they were conducted fairly," said a Seoul university student.

One Western diplomat said the importance of the rigging question will be acute if the vote is as close as expected.

Mystery woman arrives in Seoul

SEOUL, Dec 15. (Reuters): A mystery woman believed to be linked to the disappearance of a South Korean jet with 115 people on board arrived in Seoul today and was immediately whisked off for questioning, the Foreign Ministry said.

As the frail-looking young woman was led from the plane by intelligence officers, she appeared to be sobbing. A wide bandage covered her mouth and security officials said this was to prevent her from committing suicide.

The woman and an elderly male companion tried to commit suicide in Bahrain while being questioned about the Korean Air Lines (KAL) plane, which is believed to have crashed near Burma on Nov 29.

She and the body of her companion, who died after swallowing a cyanide capsule hidden in a cigarette, arrived on a special KAL flight.

South Korean officials have said they believe the woman and the dead man, carrying fake Japanese passports under the name Hachiya, were North Korean agents who planted a time bomb on the missing plane. North Korea has denied any involvement.

INF accord paved way for disarmament

Gorbachev seeks ratification

MOSCOW, Dec 15. (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, hailing a new mood in Moscow's relations with Washington, has urged his own legislature and US Senate to approve the INF Treaty he signed last week with President Reagan.

In a 15-minute televised address to the nation last night, Gorbachev appeared to be arguing for public support for the accord which eliminates some 1,800 Soviet intermediate nuclear missiles and 600 US European-based rockets.

The Kremlin chief, who returned to Moscow on Saturday after a three-day summit with Reagan, said the treaty "has shown for everybody to see the possibility of a turn from the arms race to disarmament."

Approval
"The task now is to maintain the atmosphere which made it possible to conclude the treaty, and to continue acting constructively and consistently," he told viewers in his previously-unannounced address.

"And to do this it is essential

primarily to give the treaty legal force, and ratify it."

Gorbachev, speaking quietly but in persuasive tone and frequently addressing his audience as "comrades", clearly sought to stress the treaty had the approval of the Communist Party's entire ruling politburo and the military.

"As for the Supreme Soviet (the country's legislature), I hope it will support the accord, because that is the will of the people," he said.

His remark echoed an enigmatic comment to members of the US Congress, some of whom have expressed reservations over the accord, whom he received at the Soviet Embassy in Washington during the summit.

Pressure
"Perhaps for the first time in history the process of ratification in our country will not go through as easily as it has in the past," he told the congressmen.

And he told them many letters had been coming in from ordinary Soviet citizens questioning

why the Kremlin was agreeing to dismantle more INF weaponry than the United States would do under the treaty.

Some diplomats saw these remarks and the tone of his address last night as simply aimed at putting pressure on the Reagan administration to use all its influence to obtain quick ratification by Congress.

The Supreme Soviet has for decades acted largely as a rubber-stamp body giving formal legislative approval to decisions already taken by the top party leadership.

But there was also a feeling among seasoned foreign analysts in Moscow that there could be something more behind Gorbachev's comments than simply an effort to suggest his democratisation was bringing real debate on Kremlin policies.

Foreigners who have discussed the treaty in casual conversation with ordinary people in different parts of the country in recent weeks have frequently heard strong feelings expressed against "one-sided conces-

sions."

At a Washington news conference last Thursday, Gorbachev said there were "no two opinions" in the politburo on his drive for better relations with the United States.

Cutbacks
Meanwhile, it was revealed that Gorbachev offered last week during his summit to reduce arms shipments to Nicaragua in return for a cut in US assistance to the Contra rebels.

President Ronald Reagan's National Security Adviser Lt. Gen. Colin Powell said Gorbachev's offer "stands in rather stark contrast" to statements by Nicaragua's Defence Minister that a large-scale military buildup is planned with Soviet help.

The United States will pursue the Soviet proposal "rather quickly," Powell said on the US information agency network, Worldnet. The US administration estimates that the Soviets provided Nicaragua with \$475 million worth of military equipment during the first 10 months of this year.

Six Sikh militants killed in Punjab

AMRITSAR, Dec 15. (UPI): Security personnel killed six Sikh militants in northern Punjab today, including one of India's most wanted extremists who authorities say is responsible for the slayings of 53 people, a police official said.

Amritsar district police Director Mohammad Ishaq Alam said three militants died during an early morning gunbattle near Ghaggarwal village, 35 miles (55 km) south of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

He said 20 officers armed with rifles and light machine guns prepared an ambush after receiving information that the militants, members of the Bhindranwale Tiger Force of Khahistan, were staging operations in the area.

Many of those killed have been Hindus who the extremists are pressuring to flee the Sikh-dominated state, but victims have included moderate Sikhs and security personnel.

Exchange
Alam said three Sikhs approached the squad of paramilitary troops, and when challenged, opened fire, sparking an intense 20-minute exchange of bullets in which the extremists were slain.

He named one of the dead as Swarnjeet Singh, who is wanted for involvement in the killing of 53 people, including 25 civilians in two major assaults in New Delhi.

Swarnjeet Singh was a student track star and, with a 50,000 rupee (\$3,800) price on his head, one of India's most wanted men.

Alam identified the other two gunmen as Mohinder Singh and Harjeet Singh, also wanted for extremist violence. He said police recovered a US-made submachine gun and four revolvers from the slain Sikhs.

Alam said officers killed two members of the same organisation in a shootout near Kilarajpur village, 75 miles (120 km) southeast of Amritsar, who he identified as Paramjit Singh and Avtar Singh, both carrying a 30,000 rupee (\$2,300) reward.

A third gunman escaped and police found two revolvers on the dead, Alam said.

Iraq to soon have ballistic missiles

STOCKHOLM, Dec 15. (Reuters): Iraq could soon acquire from Brazil ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads or chemical weapons up to 300 km (190 miles), an expert in the international arms trade said today.

Aaron Karp, who monitors the international arms trade for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), said this was just one alarming development in the spread of ballistic missile technology to Third World nations.

The Brazilian SS-300 missile project appears to be financed by Iraq or its supporters. The Iraqis have been fully briefed on the new missile and will be ready to buy it when it is ready in 1989 or 1990, Karp said.

"The dimensions are the minimum thought necessary to carry a likely third world nuclear missile," he said.

In two unpublished studies made available to Reuters, Karp said a pact signed this year by seven Western industrialised nations on halting the spread of ballistic-missile technology was likely to prove ineffective.

Hart re-enters presidential race

CONCORD, New Hampshire, Dec 15. (Reuters): Former Colorado Senator Gary Hart re-entered the 1988 Democratic presidential contest today, seven months after he quit the race because of his romantic entanglement with a 29-year-old model.

"I believe I represent a brand of leadership that draws its strength from independence," Hart said, explaining the surprise decision to a crowd chanting "Gary, Gary."

"I intend to resume my presidential campaign and let the people decide," he added in remarks on the steps of the New Hampshire state house.

Plane crash

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 15. (Reuters): A Brazilian Air Force Hercules transport plane with 29 people on board crashed into the sea last night and no survivors have been found, an Air Ministry spokesman said today.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

The plane with six crew and 23 passengers, went down near the archipelago of Fernando de Noronha, 190 miles (300 km) off the northeastern mainland of Brazil.

France won't resume ties with Iran, says Chirac

PARIS, Dec 15. (UPI): France will not re-establish diplomatic relations with Iran so long as that country is suspected of being an accomplice of terrorists, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said last night.

Chirac also denied that his government had undertaken to "normalise" relations with Tehran solely to obtain the release of French and other hostages held by pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon.

Foreign and domestic critics have charged Chirac's government cut a political and financial deal with Iranian authorities to obtain the release of French hostages, two of whom were freed Nov 27.

Meanwhile, a committee of prominent journalists marked the 1,000th day of captivity in Lebanon of two French diplomats by appealing to Iran for their release and that of a third French hostage.

"We believe that the scandalous detention of three of our compatriots, in violation of all the principles of morality and law, cannot go on," said a statement issued by the journalists.

Release

They asked that Iran bring about the release of diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann.

Chirac seized the occasion of a diplomatic press corps lunch to respond to a recent spate of attacks on his Iranian policy.

"France will not agree to restore diplomatic relations with a country that it may, rightly or wrongly, suspect of acting as an accomplice of terrorists," Chirac said, adding, "we have a suspicion that there is a complicity between Iran and the hostage-holders."

He said France is seeking to normalise diplomatic relations with Iran, not to free French or other hostages, but "because it is a great nation, even if its regime is not what it wishes it to be."

Asean summit concludes

Japan pledges cooperation

MANILA, Dec 15. (AP): Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita assured Southeast Asian leaders today that his country will not become a major military power.

He also unveiled a \$2-billion development fund to aid the region's economic advancement.

Takeshita met with leaders of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand in a joint session immediately after they concluded a two-day summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. He also planned to have individual meetings with each of the Southeast Asian leaders.

The summit, Asean's first in a decade, produced no major new initiatives, but finished without incident despite fears of terrorist attack.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said, "the very holding of the meeting itself was

the supreme achievement of the hour."

Takeshita, on his first foreign trip since assuming office last month, arrived shortly after the Asean leaders signed a joint declaration to work toward reducing the region of nuclear weapons and promoting regional economic cooperation.

Pledge
"I pledge unequivocally that Japan will continue its active and sincere cooperation with our Asean neighbours," he said at the joint session.

He announced the formation of the \$2-billion Asean-Japan Development Fund, which Japan will make available to Asean countries in the next three years in addition to existing bilateral aid.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, speaking for the other leaders, told Takeshita Asean welcomes the aid

offer and hopes that its relations with Japan "would move away from the donor-recipient stereotype."

"We also hope that the fund will include a mechanism to insure Asean countries against risks of further appreciation of the yen and that there will be significant efforts to promote market access in Japan for Asean products," Mahathir added.

In adjourning the Asean summit, Philippines President Corason Aquino thanked the other leaders for what she called their "moving demonstration" of solidarity in attending the conference despite threats by right-wing extremists to disrupt the proceedings in an effort to embarrass her government.

About 10,000 troops as well as warships of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia were deployed near the conference site to prevent attacks.

Whitelaw suffers stroke

LONDON, Dec 15. (AP): Deputy Prime Minister Lord Whitelaw was reported to be in stable condition today at London's Westminster Hospital after a slight stroke.

Whitelaw, 69, one of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's closest advisers, collapsed last night.

It happened during Parliament's annual Christmas carol service in St. Margaret's Church across from the Parliament buildings shortly after he read a lesson.

Nurses from nearby Westminster Hospital, who were among the congregation of 800, went to his aid.

Hospital spokesman Tim Battle said the Deputy Prime Minister, who also holds the post of leader of the House of Lords, suffered a transient ischemic attack or what he called a "mini-stroke."

Battle said a fluctuating weakness of Whitelaw's right-hand side that set in after the stroke later began to improve and that his condition was stable.

Ischemia is a medical term for deficiency of blood in an organ or tissue due to constriction or obstruction of a blood vessel.

Tamil Tigers stab two villagers

COLOMBO, Dec 15. (Reuters): Tamil Tiger rebels stabbed and injured two Sri Lankan villagers, and attacked a police station in separate incidents, police said today.

They said the two were in hospital in Amparai district in the east where the stabbing took place on Monday.

The rebels also fired small arms and rocket-propelled grenades at a police station in Eravur in nearby Batticaloa district on Monday, wounding six Indian soldiers and a Sri Lankan policeman.

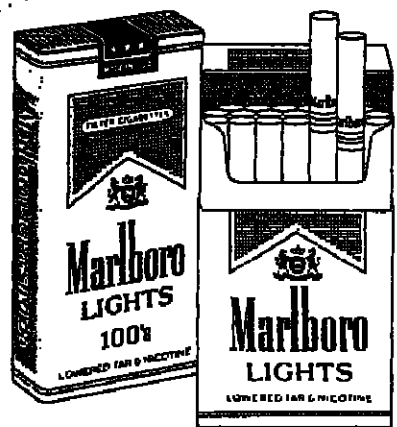
Up to 35,000 Indian soldiers are in the Northern and Eastern provinces to enforce an Indo-Sri Lankan accord at ending the Tamil separatist revolt.

Military and government officials said about 4,500 families have been displaced from their homes at Batticaloa's Valachenai town as Indian soldiers continued house-to-house searches for Tamil rebels.

These included 95 people, mostly Muslims, who arrived on Monday in Polonnaruwa district, 80 kms north of Batticaloa for fear of both Indian troops and rebel attacks.



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KUWAIT

Sheikh Nasser calls for information action plan

KUWAIT'S Information Minister, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed yesterday called for a "mature and scientific" Arab information action plan.

He said the rapid developments on the international political arena and the ideological conflict in global media make it all the more imperative for Arab information bodies to come up with "a new perspective for mature scientific and precise information system."

Sheikh Nasser was addressing the opening session of a meeting here for "committee assigned to examine the performance of Arab League information bureaux."

Spirit

He told the conference Kuwait is a staunch believer in joint action and has always backed any trend that was intended to

serve the Arab nations interests.

He said the major tasks of the committee include reassessment of the activities of the Arab League information agencies abroad, supporting them and evaluating performance of Arab foreign friendship societies.

Sheikh Nasser hoped that the spirit of the successful Arab summit conference held in Amman last month would prevail in all Arab League meetings.

Head of the League's permanent committee for information Salah Mukhtar said in an address the aggressive and expansionist policies of the Iranian regime were now posing the most serious threat to the Arab nation.

Noting that Arabs are now threatened at home, Mukhtar urged them to brush aside their petty disputes and close ranks in the face of the menace.

Headed: "Kuwait's steadfastness, Iraq's victory and Saudi Arabia's decisiveness as well as the Arab solidarity with the Gulf countries" alerted the world to the fact that the Gulf states are resolved to defend their region.

On the information front, he said Arabs have a historic opportunity now to have their side of the story of the Gulf war attentively listened to by regional and international powers.

But he complained that Arab League information bureaux abroad were suffering from "compound" problems that could lead the League to freeze them altogether. He did not specify.

After an address by head of the League's information department, the committee for the Arab League information bureaux held a preliminary meeting and adjourned for the first working session in the afternoon.



Sheikh Nasser (centre) and officials at the committee meeting of Arab League information bureaux.

Saudi Arabia pledges support for Sudan

KHARTOUM, Dec 15, (Kuna): Saudi Arabia has pledged full support to Sudan in repulsing any foreign aggression, according to a senior Sudanese politician who has recently returned from Riyadh.

The leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, Mohamed Osman Al Mirghani today told pressmen that the Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz had expressed understanding and sympathy with Sudan over the occupation of the Sudanese border town of Kurmuk in which Sudan has accused Ethiopia of involvement.

Al Mirghani, who holds no government office, was asked by the Sudanese Supreme Council to lead a government delegation which included Foreign Minister Mamoun Sinada and Education Minister Bakri Ahmed Adil to explain to Saudi officials the situation in Kurmuk, on Sudan's south eastern border, and to seek Saudi support.

He said he had met King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and Defence Minister Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz who all pledged that Saudi Arabia's full commitment to side with Sudan and to assist it in repulsing foreign aggression.

This implies a possible Saudi assistance to Sudan for recapturing Kurmuk which is now occupied by the Ethiopian-backed rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA. Observers here believe that such assistance may be in the form of arms supplies.

Al Mirghani has disclosed that the Saudi protest against Ethiopia's involvement in the occupation of Kurmuk was manifested by turning back an Ethiopian delegation which arrived in Saudi Arabia during the stay of the Sudanese delegation.

The Ethiopian delegation, led by the country's vice-chairman was in Saudi Arabia seeking a Saudi loan of \$300 million.

The leader of the Sudanese delegation said they were officially notified that the Ethiopian delegation was not received by Saudi officials and that the Saudi monarch had instructed his aides to convey to the Ethiopian delegation that no negotiations would take place in view of the Ethiopian aggression on Sudan.

Al Mirghani also revealed that the Saudi monarch has ordered that 160,000 tons of petroleum products be shipped as a grant to Sudan to help it meet its fuel needs.

Plan to reduce rent of chalets

A KUWAITI daily reported on Monday that authorities are considering reducing the rent of chalets by 50 per cent, with a square metre costing 250 fils instead of 500 for the building and 50 fils instead of 100 for the land. Sources said that the decision regarding prices should be issued soon and would be effective as of January 1, 1988.

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ROYAL COURT

Crown Prince audience

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, received at the Council of Ministers yesterday, the State Minister for Municipal Affairs, Abdul Rahman Khalid Al Ghunaim; the Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri and the director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Dr Abdul Rahman Saleh Al Mihalil on the occasion of their appointment.

Sheikh Saad also received the Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti, Khaled Youssef Al Marzouk and the Central Bank of Kuwait governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah.

Sheikh Saad also received the new Greek and Bolivian ambassadors to Kuwait on the occasion of their appointment and chief editor of local newspaper Al Sayassah Ahmed Al Jarallah.

Inspectors honoured

KUWAIT'S Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al Khalid honoured four inspectors at the Supply and Consumer Protection Department for their work in identifying shops who violate regulations regarding the sale of government subsidised items. Al Khalid said that the four were given monetary awards and certificates of appreciation.

Abdullah Al Mulla, the Director of Supply and Consumer Protection Department, said that ministry inspectors are instructed to report any violation note at shops selling subsidised goods. He added that there are about 120 inspectors covering 18 centres in different areas of the

country.

He added that government subsidies during the fiscal year 1985-1986 reached KD22 million and dropped to KD10 million during the 1986-1987 fiscal year.

Board meeting

KUWAIT'S Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday headed a meeting for the general board of the South and the Arabian Gulf.

The meeting tackled a study of the board's draft budget for fiscal 1988-89 and the board's projects in a number of sisterly countries.



The Governor of Hawaili Sheikh Salman Humoud Al Sabah received a number of citizens in his office on Monday who congratulated him on his new term of office as governor of Hawaili. Sheikh Salmaan (right) is pictured receiving the governor of the Capital, Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Sabah (centre).

OBITUARY

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Ministry supervising private schools

DR YACOB Al Sharrah, the Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Education in charge of private schools, said that private foreign schools are supervised by the Education Ministry both administratively and financially, adding that fees collected by the schools are set by the ministry, and cover the cost of textbooks and other school requirements except school uniforms and transportation.

A family with more than one child enrolled in a school, receives a ten per cent discount for the second child, 15 per cent for the third and 20 per cent for the fourth, he added.

Dr Al Sharrah also said that contributions made by sponsors of students are optional and that the school is obliged to record these contributions and use the money on educational activities for the school.

Teachers express concern

A KUWAITI daily reported that in a meeting with a number of teachers in the English department at Kuwait University expressed their concern about the current teaching situation at the university.

The daily quoted Maled Abdul Jawad Hussein and Abdul Jaleel Saleh as saying that they were surprised to learn about the situation of language teachers when they returned to the university after completing their Masters degrees abroad. They added that the teaching staff treated them as administrators and not as academic professionals.

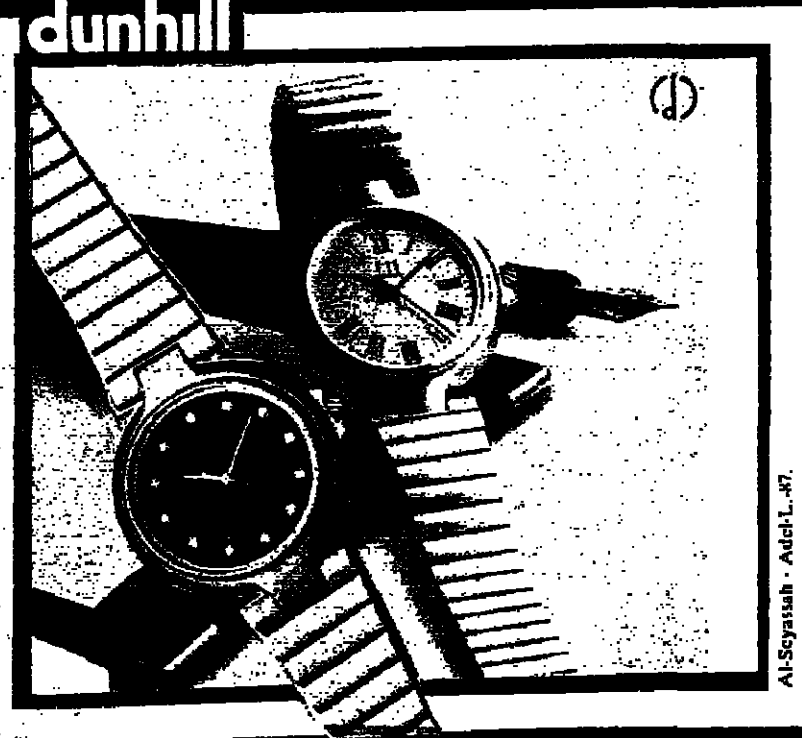
They were also quoted as saying that they were not given any allowances, whereas teachers at applied education institutes received allowances, which in some cases doubled their salaries.

University to teach desert science

THE Dean of Kuwait University's Science Faculty Dr Faiza Kharafi said that the faculty had added the study of desert sciences as a separate discipline, adding that this study was in its early stages and would provide a section of applied chemistry.

Dr Kharafi said that the faculty was assessing the current system and plans to set up a special advisory office to supervise training courses held for employees of companies and government agencies.

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Somalia seeks assistance for Arabisation programme

SOMALIA is seeking the assistance of Kuwait and other Arab countries in stepping up the country's Arabisation programme launched in 1980 on Somalia's limited resources. Minister of Culture and Higher Education of Somalia Abdul Salim Al Sheikh Hussein said yesterday.

Speaking to Kuna in an exclusive interview yesterday, the minister said he relayed to senior Kuwait officials he met with since arrival here last Sunday on his country's confidence in Kuwait's support to Somali drive to circulate the Arabic language in the country.

Crucial

Hussein was granted an audience with HH the Amir, to convey a written message from President Mohammad Siad Barre on promotion of bilateral relations, especially in the educational and cultural fields and on developments in the Arab sphere.

The minister, who is leading a high-powered delegation to

Qatar as well, affirmed Somali support to Kuwait in the face of repeated Iranian aggressions and upheld Kuwait's measures to counter these attacks.

Elaborating on the Arabisation programme, Hussein said the project needs the moral and material support of the Arab states in that it is a nationalist and pan-Arab programme commanding the interest and attention of the entire members of the Arab League.

He said a plan drawn by his country in cooperation with the Arab League, Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Alecso) entails establishment of colleges, training institutes and schools in addition to use of Arabic language by the media.

The 15-year long programme, launched in 1980, is now entering the second phase which is crucial to the success of the plan, and needs concerted efforts and full participation of all the Arab states.

He said, the Amir, the Crown Prince and the ministers he met with have all shown interest in the programme and that a joint technical committee has been set up to study ways of Kuwait's support for the plan.

Illiteracy

The Somali minister said his country introduced illiteracy eradication campaign well before joining the Arab League and that about 70 per cent of the

people can read and write.

He said the campaign is mostly concentrated in the rural areas adding the ideal investment is in education which he described as the real foundation for success of all economic and social plans in any country.

Hussein attributed the challenges his country is facing from certain neighbouring countries to failure of the Arabisation programme to reach some border areas and the rural plains citing Somalia's dispute with Ethiopia over the Ogaden province as an example in hand.

Fund

He said the Ethiopian regime banned Arabic in the disputed Ogaden province but that hopes are high in resolving the dispute with peaceful means.

The Somali minister said the Alecso, in its present structure, is incapable of meeting the needs of the developing Arab countries to promote the educational and cultural Islamic heritage but supported the organisation director call for establishment of a pan-Arab fund for education.

He said the proposed fund portrays Arab cohesion and cooperation in education in the countries facing difficulties in that field.

Hussein invited Education Minister Anwar Abdulla Al Nouri to visit Somalia to acquaint himself with progress in the Arabisation programme.



HH the Amir yesterday met the President of Gambia, Dawada Kairaba Jawara.

Amir receives Abu Ghazala

HH the Amir received yesterday the Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence, War Production and Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Army Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala on the occasion of his visit to the country.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah also received Abu Ghazala.

The Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed discussed bilateral relations along with Arab developments in general and situation in the Arab Gulf region in particular.

Abu Ghazala also held talks with Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed.



HH the Amir with Abu Ghazala (left).

Bishara arrives in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, Dec 15, (Kuna): GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Yacoub Bishara arrived here today on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Bishara, arriving here from Riyadh, is scheduled to confer with a number of UAE officials on agenda items of the upcoming 8th Gulf Cooperation Council summit scheduled for December 26, in Saudi Arabia, and the preceding preparatory meeting of the council's ministerial council on December 21, also in Saudi Arabia.

The UAE heads the current GCC session since the seventh summit was held November last year in Abu Dhabi.

Bishara's visit falls in line with contacts with GCC members, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, in preparation for the summit.

Bonn denies plan to send warships to Gulf

BONN, Dec 15, (Agencies): A West German Defence Ministry spokesman yesterday again denied news reports saying that the ministry has prepared plans to send warships and minesweepers to the Arabian Gulf region to support other Western vessels in safeguarding navigation in the area.

Captain Nordheimer, the ministry's specialist in naval affairs, affirmed to Kuna that his country has no intention whatsoever to send any warships or minesweepers to the Gulf, noting that the West German constitution forbids sending any forces to areas not subjected to Nato's defence treaties.

On whether these agreements do not force a Nato member to aid another state in the alliance which comes under attack in the Gulf for example, the spokesman indicated that there are several interpretations for this specific article of Nato's agreements. He affirmed, however, that Bonn sticks to the interpretation saying that the German laws disallow dispatching national forces to areas outside Nato's jurisdiction, and this applies to the Gulf.

He pointed out that electing German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner as the alliance's secretary general succeeding Lord Carrington of Britain will not change the German position toward German military presence in the Gulf. "Der Spiegel" magazine had disclosed that Bonn's defence ministry has prepared "secret plans" toward sending warships and minesweepers to the Arabian Gulf if needed.

Ranking government officials, including the chancellor's advisor for foreign policy and security affairs Horst Telchik had requested Bonn to reconsider its current position toward this issue.

Telchik noted in previous press statements that securing navigation in the Gulf also serves German interest and Bonn has to shoulder part of the responsibilities in this regard.

On the other hand, the defence spokesman said that the German naval convoy which headed for the Mediterranean last October to replace US ships stationed in the Gulf is now on its way home. He said that the ministry decided to send a new naval unit to the Mediterranean next Jan 21 comprising of four destroyers and one supply vessel. The new ships will remain there through March 15.

Minesweepers Meanwhile, Belgium is recalling one of its two minesweepers from the Gulf but extending the other's mission until April to defend freedom of navigation in the waterway, the defence ministry said yesterday.

A ministry spokesman said the presence of Belgian and other Western ships in the Gulf was discouraging mine-laying, but there was still a threat to shipping.

The Netherlands also announced yesterday it was extending the mission of two Dutch minehunters which work closely with the Belgian team.

Amir holds talks with Jawara

PRESIDENT Dawada Kairaba Jawara of Gambia met HH the Amir at Seif Palace yesterday where official talks were held.

The Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Sheikh Khalid Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi and the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and head of the mission of honour, Faisal Abdul Razaq Al Khalid attended the meeting on the Kuwaiti side and the Gambian Foreign Minister, Minister of Water Resources and Environment Affairs, the High Commissioner for Development of the Gambia River Basin and the Ambassador of Gambia to Kuwait on the Gambian side.

Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister said the talks covered bilateral relations and avenues of promoting them in all fields, Afro-Arab ties, Islamic issues and the Gulf war in addition to other issues of mutual concern.

An air of cordiality, understanding and friendship dominated the negotiations, he said.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah visited President Jawara, at his residence at Salam Palace.

The meeting was attended by Faisal Al Khalid.

Earlier in the day, the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber visited President Jawara at Al Salam Palace accompanied by head of the mission of honour.

Three new envoys present credentials

CAIRO, Dec 15, (UPI): The ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq submitted their credentials today to President Hosni Mubarak, roughly one month after the three countries decided to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt.

The three were among nine Arab states that reopened ties with Egypt after last month's Amman summit decided that Arab League members were free to do so on an individual basis.

The six others were Morocco, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, North Yemen and Mauritania.

Robbers held

DETECTIVES of the capital governorate have arrested three Kuwaitis on charges of breaking into some shops at the Capital and Hawalli governorates.

The men admitted their actions and were referred to the competent authorities.

12 accidents

THERE were 12 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday. Three took place in the capital, three in Hawalli, and six in Ahmadi.

Kuwait envoy holds talks with RAK ruler

ABU DHABI, Dec 15, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Ambassador to United Arab Emirates Mohammed Saud Al Mae conferred today with member of the UAE supreme ruling council and ruler of Ras Al Khaima Sheikh Saqr Bin Mohammed Al Qassemi.

He also met in Fujaira with ruler of the emirate and member of the supreme council Sheikh Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Sharqi.

Discussions during the two meetings tackled bilateral fraternal relations between Kuwait and the UAE and means of fostering them in various spheres.

The Kuwaiti envoy also met with chairman of the Fujaira Chamber of Commerce and Industry Seif Sultan Saeed, deputy director general of that chamber Shahin Al Shabin and members of its board of directors to review preparations for the permanent exhibition for local industries that will be headquartered in Fujaira.

Seminar on development

FUTURE developments in the Arab world will be the concern of Arab economists and intellectuals who will participate in a seminar starting on Dec 19 at the Arab Planning Institute.

Dr George Tooma will deliver the keynote address which will highlight the activities of the institute in planning and development, the economic difficulties facing the Arab world and ways of exploiting the available potentials for benefitting the Arab world.

Telephone disconnection

AN official source at Kuwait's Communications Ministry said that the ministry would accept applications for temporary telephone service disconnection if the applicant had paid all outstanding bills in full. The source added that subscribers wishing to have the phones disconnected temporarily when they leave the country for an extended period would be required to pay KD5 to have their services re-connected when they returned to the country.

Over KD 1m paid in subsidies

KUWAIT'S Commerce and Industry Ministry paid KD 1,020,833 in subsidies during October, according to statistics published yesterday.

The amount included subsidies for foodstuff, and for building materials for people who had obtained loans from the Credit and Saving Bank.

The statistics showed that 1,008 ration cards had been issued to cover 8,700 people during October.

Iraqi envoy

KUWAIT'S Interior Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed yesterday received in his office Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait, Assem Yacoub Youssef.

The discussions tackled a number of topics of common interest.



● Bhutan's Ambassador to Kuwait, Sangay Dorji, celebrated his country's national day with a reception at the Holiday Inn yesterday. The ambassador (right) is seen welcoming Kuwait's Information Minister Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmed. (Photo by Javed Basra)

555 - FIRST CLASS VALUE



Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

THANKSGIVING

The bereaved family of **Sadrudin Rahman Qureshi** thanks the manager and the employees of engineering and maintenance department of K.N.P.C. refinery and also the relatives, friends and families for condolences and the great help given to them at the time of sorrow.
May His Soul Rest in Peace.

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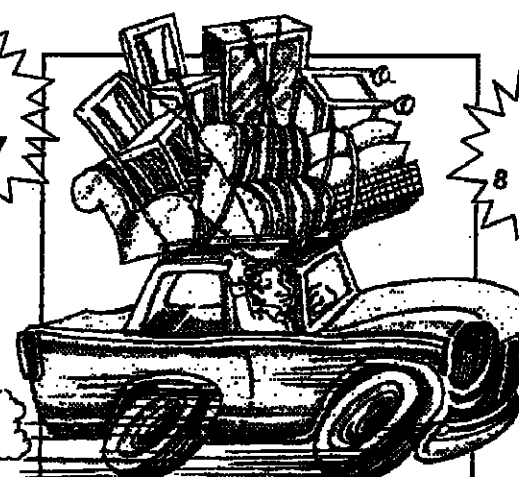
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VIDEO CORNER

Crying wolf and poking fun!

By Gail Seery

"TEEN Wolf Too" is a very predictable movie. Not only that, it's also clichéd and tries to sell an underlying message that really isn't especially worth mentioning, or at any rate not in a long and apparently pointless analogy. On the other hand, the film is quite well worked and entertaining in its own right, once you accept that a film of this sort cannot in any case take itself too seriously.

The story? Todd, played by Jason Bateman takes a boxing scholarship to college, despite being a talented young scientist. He is mystified by his scholarship, because he has no talent at boxing whatsoever. The mystery comes out little by little; the coach comes from his home town and knows his family secret. Todd thinks that being a werewolf has skipped his generation, but of course it is not so, and we see that the wolf in him is the negative side

of his personality. He goes into the ring for a fight and gets knocked out, turns into the wolf, and wins his fight. Most of the rest of the story can be worked out from the above. Then late in the film, Todd realises that he is "a jerk" and fights his last fight as himself. Guess what, he wins (yawn).

The film is absurd in that none ever shows any fear, though he is at first dismissed as "a dog". There's romance, a wicked scientist type woman (two actually) who try to stand in the way of true love, and an assortment of alleged student types.

Altogether more enjoyable is Spitting Image VI which consists of three episodes from the series. Two are from the UK, and the other is a rather less biting version from America, which concentrates on Hollywood stars rather than on politicians. If you've never seen "Star Trek", you can forget trying to decipher the plot.

The British versions poke

fun at everything. Whilst they concentrate on political satire, no party escapes ridicule. The characterisations of Cabinet members are superb, though hopefully, inaccurate. Thatcher is portrayed as a Headmaster type, and the cabinet as a bunch of public school boys who are all extremely thick, with the exception of unsavoury henchman Norman Tebbit. "Right," she proclaims, "I want you all to go to your constituencies."

Once it's explained to him what a constituency is, Howe says "better find out where it is then." "You ought to know already Geoffrey," scolds Tebbit. "I'm sorry, I've been very busy," he mumbles. Thatcher intervenes here. "I want you all to find out where you were elected — I'll give you a week."

There are also classic throw-away lines, that slip in hardly noticed. We have a scene of Heseltine and Leon Brittan in the House of Commons, with the usual sort of droning voice

speaking in the background. It's saying, "this is absolutely meaningless drivel and I'm making it up as I go along."

The Spitting Image Royal family is superb. We have the Queen campaigning for the Socialist Workers party; "Smash the Tories! Cancel Trident! Troops out of Ireland! Lock up Prince Philip!" she cries. "I take it this political stance is held on ideological grounds," grovels Alastair Burnet. "No, I do it to annoy Mrs Thatcher," comes the answer.

There is also a great deal of fun poked at media personalities, and their approach to royalty. Ann Diamond castigates Burnet for his hatred of royalty. "I just heard you refer to her most sagacious, omnipotent, all-seeing glorious, majestic and beautiful Princess Diana using only three superlatives!" An outraged Selina Scott arrives on the scene: "How dare you use only six superlatives when referring

...etc"

Other victims are Grace Jones, the Pope (your popeness), Ian Botham, and in fact anyone even mildly famous whose face would be recognised by the viewing public. I particularly like the David Coleman puppet. For those who don't know, Coleman is a Sports presenter mainly famous for his mistakes. He is commenting on a 400 metres race. "No Brits at all, not a Brit in sight. Hardly worth having a race at all... Coming round the first bend, and still no Brits involved... On they've all stopped — they must have realised the no-Brit situation and packed up!"

Then there's the two famous cricketers on the windsurfer; "If we want to avoid being thrashed by the Aussies we've got to play a lot less cricket!"

Perhaps the British public's saving grace is that they can still laugh at themselves — and everyone else, given the chance.

A comedy of errors

By Brian Hollis

A FAVOURITE theme for comedy scriptwriters has always been the "Sod's Law" variant, where everything that can possibly go wrong goes doubly wrong, and events that start out as harmless agreements to help a friend turn into complicated nightmares. Bruce Willis' Blind Date is a good example, and now we have another excellent comedy in Adventures in Babysitting.

Elizabeth Shue stars as the unfortunate babysitter who agrees to look after two children when her boyfriend cancels their date. Meanwhile, her friend has run away from home and is sitting in the bus station downtown, frightened to death of the various men and down-and-outs who keep approaching her. Our babysitter reluctantly agrees to fetch her in the neighbours' car, and has to take the kids along — not only the two of them, but also a friend who threatens to spit on her if he's not allowed to go with them. From there on their situation gradually gets out of control: the car breaks down; the friendly truckdriver helping them rushes off to his home when the CD band radio informs him there is a stranger in their house.

Gangsters, car thieves, night clubs, car chases and some breathtaking mountaineering up the side of the skyscraper where mum and dad are enjoying cocktails are all part of the

fun, and, of course, they manage to get back home as though nothing has happened, two minutes before the parents. Apart from the fact that one of the boys is rather prone to using four letter words, it's a film which will be enjoyed by the whole family.

Private Eye is the full length pilot episode from a new series by "Miami Vice" scriptwriter Anthony Yerkovich. Michael Woods and Josh Brolin star as Jack, an ex-cop who has been dismissed on trumped up charges, and Johnny, a loose end who sometimes worked for Jack's brother, a private eye who has now been murdered. To start with Jack is very reluctant to take on Johnny — "The Last Thing I Need in my rearview mirror right now is some thrill-crazy rock'n roll delinquent with a blackboard jungle wardrobe, a nightmare for a car and a haircut that needs a building permit." On the other hand, Johnny can hotwire a car in under 20 seconds, and after a stormy start the partnership sets out to get the murderers of Jack's brother.

This week's Best-seller is The Manions of America, a four hour mini-series with a host of well-known faces including Pierce Brosnan, Katherine Beller, Anthony Quayle, Simon MacCorkindale, David Soul, Kate Mulgrew and others. The plot follows the familiar theme

of a family emigrating to make a new life in the New World, who are divided among themselves.

Deadly Deceptions is a new drama starring Matt Salinger. It concerns a man's attempt to discover the truth behind his wife's apparent suicide after murdering their child. Say Yes is a recent comedy with Art Hindle as the young playboy who has to get married within 24 hours if he wishes to inherit a vast fortune. Lissa Laying stars as Annie, a farmer's daughter from the Midwest who runs away to seek her fortune in big bad New York, only to be proposed to in the street by Hindle. We've all seen the story before and there is little suspense in guessing the outcome. However, the twists and turns are so enjoyable that the inevitability of it all only adds to the fun. The running jokes are all important. Watch out for would-be-ride Cynthia's attempts to dispose of her current husband, and a would-be father-in-law dragging his reluctant daughter around in full radial dress. An enjoyable comedy of errors for all the family.

An older, but still very worthwhile film is Elia Kazan's The Arrangement which stars Kirk Douglas, Faye Dunaway and Deborah Kerr. Douglas plays the wealthy advertising man who fails in a suicide attempt and spends his convalescence reflecting on his unsatisfactory

emotional life. The film is a well-acted tirade against the pressures and compromises of modern living.

Sports fans can thrill to Jimmy White challenging Steve Davis in the UK Snooker Championship final, or watch Walt win the World Cup of Golf. Alternatively, the American Football and Basketball series continue with new games each week.

For children there is a new Christmas cartoon feature — Tukki's Search for Christmas and an adventure for somewhat older children The Ghost of Cypress Swamp.

The above films are available from Video Nurf, Video Club and VFI, Safeway, Farwana.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Carioca Tiger
Starring: Michael Colby

Al Sahmya
Choose Me
Starring: Genieve Bujold, Keith Carradine

Al Hamra
Al Beit Al Ma'oun (Arabic)
Starring: Magda Al Khatib, Kamal Shinnawi, Samir Sabri

Drive-In
Laa nat Al Maal (Arabic)
Starring: Hatem Zulfikar, Iman, Yusuf Shaaban

Al Firdous
Mazloom (Hindi)
Starring: Suresh Oberoi, Anita Raj, Mandakani

Fahadhel Open-Air
Kora Kagaz (Hindi)
Starring: Jaya Bhaduri

Ahmedi Drive-In
Li'adam Kifayah Al Ulaa (Arabic)

Al Fahadhel
Al Marmourah (Arabic)

Al Jabra
Great Chihuahua Treasure Hunt

Granada
Al Amaliyah 42 (Arabic)

Salaikhhat
Pensinham (Malayalam)

Al Jleeb
Fire of Vengeance

At the Holiday Inn
Al Dana features fresh seafood every Wednesday in the "Sea Drama on Ice" promotion. Carmen Trio provide background music.

At the Ramada Al Salam
All-day dining at El Bender Coffee Shop. Grilled specialties featured at the Grill Garden. Snacks and cocktails offered at the Lobby Lounge. Every Thursday night Le Mirage offers barbecue with music.

At the Sheraton
Every Wednesday Al Hamra features "Treasures of the Deep" specialties for dinner. Dine to music by the World Machine Band.

At the Hilton
La Palma, the all-day dining restaurant open from 6.30 am to midnight. Features Oriental, Continental and International cuisine; an array of sweets and desserts offered for lunch and dinner. A full-American buffet breakfast is available from 6.30 am to 11 am.

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La Brasserie offers an extensive buffet and a la carte service for lunch and dinner; ideal place for family outing or a business luncheon.

Tonight is barbecue night around the swimming pool featuring a selection of mezzeh, salads, barbecued meat and seafood, live music.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News Via Satellite
3.30 Sanshiro: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 World News via Satellite
4.15 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial, featuring Yusuf Shabaan, Raghdha, Hala Fakher
5.30 Zahoor Min Noor
6.00 Soora Min Al Tabbia: cultural programme

7.00 News Summary
7.05 With Students
7.45 Lauhat Shabiya: local programme
8.15 Good Evening and Local programme
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Ghadan Tadaq Al Hayat: daily serial, starring Salah Saadani, Hina Tharwath, Mohammad Al Arabi

10.50 Ayyam Aalibal: presented by Marwan Sawaf and featuring Abdul Munim Madbouli, Huda Sultan, Waleed Tawfiq, Fatima Eid, Mohammad Waheeb, Safwan Behlwan

12.10 News Summary
12.15 World News via Satellite

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Lorenzo Lamas plays Lance in Falcon Crest, at 10.30 pm on KTV 2 tonight.

1.00 Holy Quran/Closedown

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Mickey and Donald
6.30 Charles in Charge: "Snowed In." Charles finds himself locked inside a house with a group of children and with no food or heating.

7.00 Horizon: "Reflections on a River." A look at life on the banks of an English river.

8.00 News in English
8.40 The Wizard: Simon McKay helps a

paralysed woman, whose life has been threatened

9.30 The World We Live In: "Life in the Parched Land." A look at the desert environment.

10.00 Sledge Hammer: "The Spider Woman." Sledge Hammer takes revenge

10.30 Falcon Crest: "Dark Passion." Richard's son has been kidnapped; Maggie feels insecure and Melissa is ill

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite

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Kuwait's Commerce and Industry Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Rashid Abdullah Al Mejri pictured at the Aliba stall at the Watches and Gifts Exhibition held recently at the Mishrif International Fair Ground. A wide range of Aliba watches were displayed. Lorane Dodane watches were also shown.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Free Atelier

Over 90 paintings by Palestinian artist Mohammad Boushaq are on show at the Free Atelier Gallery, Arabian Gulf St. The show has been organised by the Kuwait Society for Formative Arts. Open daily from 8.30 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, until Dec. 22.

Sultan Gallery
Exhibition of Prisse D'Avenues L'Art Arabe (1877), open daily except Friday, 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm, at the Sultan Gallery, Al Soor St.

Social
The British Council, Mansouria, is holding an exhibition of books and software "Science and Maths through Microcomputers" from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm, until Thursday.

Malayalee Drama
Vishwabhairavi Theatre, Abbasia, will present a Malayalee Drama, written by Thomas Perekumpal, on Dec 25, at the Indian Embassy auditorium.

Hash House Harriers
Annual festive get-together on Wednesday, 7.45 pm for 8 pm.

Moods and Melody
"Passage to Music Time" is the title of a concert of Hindi, Malayalam and Tamil film songs, which will be presented by Moods and Melody at the Labour Union Hall on Dec 18, 5.30 pm. Tel: 4338579 for details.

Bangladeshi Association
The Association will present a cultural show on Dec 18 at 5.30 pm at the Sharq Coop auditorium to celebrate Victory Day. All are welcome.

Victory Day
A flaghoisting ceremony will be held at the Bangladeshi Embassy, Jabriya, today at 9 am to mark Victory Day. All Bangladeshis are welcome.

ASK Alumni Dinner
Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an alumni dinner at Regency Palace Hotel on Jan 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8 pm. For details phone Mrs. Suzy Jones — 5314568.

Children's Party
Children's Party will be held at Messilah beach hotel on Dec 17, 3 pm. Fancy dress and many festive games.

Nirjhar Cultural Group
A discussion followed by a musical sketch will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Dec 25 by the Nirjhar Cultural Group. The programme is being organised to celebrate the Victory Day of Bangladesh.

Sports
Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club
Thursday: Fancy dress party. For tickets and details contact Ron Hughes — 5630113.

Bowling Games
Pre-Christmas bowling games will be held at 300 Club, Silver Tower, on Thursday (6.30 pm) and Friday (4.30 pm and 6.30 pm). Open to men and women. For details contact Manny Inzerio at Club 300. Today is the last day for registration.

Hotels
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We've turned the Far East into the Near East.

From October 25th Gulf Air's new schedule takes the "Far" out of The East. Flights are more frequent, more direct and all on fast, luxurious Tristars. From The Gulf, we fly non-stop to Bangkok five times a week, on to Manila, twice, and Hong Kong four times.

Onward connections to major cities in the region are timed to coincide — which makes Gulf Air the most convenient airline you can fly, for business or pleasure, from The Gulf to the Far East.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

PLEASURE is very seldom where it is sought — Samuel Johnson, English scholar (1709-1784).

Summit restores Reagan's lustre

By Terence Hunt

WASHINGTON, (AP): The superpower summit gave Ronald Reagan a missile treaty restoring some of the lustre of his tarnished presidency and the hope of another arms agreement that would put him in the history books as a peacemaker.

By the same token, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev got a public relations boost for his programme of economic and political reforms, along with the elimination of hundreds of warheads targeted on the Soviet Union.

"The world is watching," Reagan said as he and Gorbachev began three days of extraordinary talks crowned by the signing of the first nuclear arms pact of his presidency.

It was an encounter of two remarkably different leaders: Reagan the apostle of capitalism and Gorbachev the voice of communism, one man nearing the end of his reign of power and the other just beginning.

There were softly spoken fears before the summit that the wily, young Russian was going to snooker the ageing American, beaten down for a year by the Iran-Contra affair.

It didn't happen. "Reagan certainly held his own. He was a gracious host. He was tough. He didn't give away the china," said Stephen Hess, a Brookings Institution scholar.

"I just want to congratulate President Reagan," said House Speaker Jim Wright, a Democrat and frequent opponent who was among bipartisan leaders who applauded Reagan's performance. "I think he's done a fine job."

Senate majority leader Robert Byrd, a Democrat, leaned over toward Reagan at a meeting Friday and said that Richard Nixon had been the right president to renew relations with China, and "you're the right president at this time," an administration official reported.

The two leaders signed a treaty to eliminate their intermediate-range nuclear missiles (INF), with ranges of about 300 to 3,000 miles (500 to 5,000 kilometres).

They finessed deep differences on "Star Wars" testing with an "agreement to disagree," according to National Security Adviser Colin Powell, and both leaders expressed hopes of being able to sign an agreement at a

summit in Moscow next spring to slash by half long-range strategic weapons.

"It seems quite clear that the first part of next year is going to be quite consumed with getting this treaty through the Senate and getting another treaty in shape," Hess said.

Administration officials say there are long odds against getting a strategic weapons pact ready for signing in Moscow, particularly because of difficulties in verifying compliance with an agreement.

Regardless of whether a new treaty is ready, the White House has declared Reagan is ready to go to Moscow.

His meetings with Gorbachev — this was their third summit — have produced a landmark change in the way Reagan views the Soviet Union, which he once described as an "evil empire."

"I meant it when I said it," Reagan explained Friday. He said that earlier Soviet leaders were tied to "the Marxian philosophy of the one-world communist state."

With Gorbachev, however, he said there is "a certain chemistry between us" and that "there seems to be an entirely different relationship."

In public, the two leaders were always smiling and cordial. Behind the scenes, there were some clashes, mixed with moments of high drama, anxiety and emotion.

When Reagan pressed Gorbachev on human rights and the plight of Soviet Jews who want to emigrate, the Soviet leaders shot back. "Mr President, you are not the prosecutor and I am not the accused... I am not on trial."

Trying to turn the criticism on Reagan, Gorbachev brought up the homeless in America, and also noted that Mexicans cannot freely emigrate to the United States.

Reagan retorted, "There's a big difference between wanting in and wanting out."

"It was in the closing minutes of the summit that the key language on Star Wars — the informal name of the Strategic Defense Initiative — was worked out and included in a joint US-Soviet summit statement covering compliance with the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty."

At one point during the visit, Gorbachev had mentioned to Reagan that it is a sign of good luck if it rains on the beginning or the end of the trip.

Leaner years are in prospect

Politics in paradox of famine and food surplus

By Miriam Jordan

LONDON, (Reuters): Third World children are starving even while there is a global surplus of grain, and latest projections suggest that leaner years are in prospect.

A major study in December by the International Wheat Council said Third World demand for wheat, rice and coarse grains like barley could rise by 55 per cent by the year 2000.

Its import needs may double. But world prices, depressed now by the current surplus, are likely to rise.

Projections such as these lend urgency to efforts to rescue world food supplies from entrenched political problems and boost the Third World's own production, economists and aid donors say. But the auguries are scarcely good.

European Parliament president Lord Plumb of Britain talks of "the paradoxical

problems of plenty."

At Gatt, the 95-nation world trade body, the United States is campaigning for freer trade in food and an end to subsidies for farmers. But the Europeans who argue against the US scheme fear that it could mean more farmers without work.

In the Third World itself, civil strife has diminished the ability of Ethiopia, Sudan, Angola and Mozambique to feed their people this year.

Raised

Irish rock singer Bob Geldof, whose Band Aid campaign raised \$160 million for famine relief in 1985, said during a visit to Ethiopia in early December: "The problem is 80 per cent endemic drought and 20 per cent political."

In Northern Ethiopia, three-quarters of this year's crops were lost to drought and already more than one million people are starving. But food convoys run the risk of rebel ambush.

Relief officials predict six million more Ethiopians will be short of food in 1988.

In southern Sudan, civil war means that the area under soya, the basic foodgrain, is some 38 per cent down from last year this season. Some relief workers say up to three million people could face starvation.

Around the world — from Mexico to Thailand to Senegal — farmers have abandoned the land in search of a better living in overcrowded capitals, creating squatter settlements, generating misery and crime and exacerbating malnutrition.

At the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), the United States — which has proposed phasing out all subsidies to farmers by the year 2000 — has argued that freeing trade in food is one answer, especially benefiting Third World farmers.

Hugh Corbett, director of London's Trade Policy Research

Centre, explained that subsidies create surpluses which are dumped in world markets.

"And if you're dumping food in Africa under the label of food aid, the effect is to push the price down and lead farmers to shift to, say, growing livestock, which eat up all the grass," he said. "And then you get famine."

The so-called Cairns Group of major farm nations, among them Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada and Indonesia, have welcomed the US plan.

"The US proposal is a concrete starting point for our negotiations," Leopoldo Tettamanti, Argentine ambassador to Gatt told Reuters. "Argentina is losing about \$5 billion a year because of the decline in agricultural prices. That is the same amount it costs to service our debt."

More than half the two million children born in Mexico this year will suffer malnutrition, according to the National Nutrition

Institute there.

Bartolome Perkez from Mexico's National Pediatric Institute said: "Politicians and nutritionists lack a common language. The government is too concerned with eliminating the balance of payments deficit when the population's well-being is at stake."

In Mexico, as in many other Third World nations, officials put a premium on earning foreign currency, needed to pay off their debt, he said.

Deterioration

Encouraging farmers to grow export products such as sugar cane and cattle rather than nutritional staples such as corn and beans has contributed to the deterioration in peasants' diet.

"We are feeding the world, not our own people," said Perez. In rich countries, some economists say governments — many elected with the help of the farm vote — have encouraged farmers too successfully. That is why they

have surpluses. UN programmes as the Economic Community of West African States buy up farm surplus keep farmers' incomes low whose governments afford to support them same way.

The EEC grows enough to give each of its 300 inhabitants three pounds grain a day. In 1987 it spent \$25 billion to compile up stocks in warehouse.

The huge farm subsidies threaten the 12-nation economic survival, swal two-thirds of its \$41 billion get.

Resistance

French and West German resistance to automatic price for farmers during the Dec 5 EEC summit in Copenhagen seemed to show the power farm lobbies.



Some nations make social gains despite poverty

By Carl Hartman

WASHINGTON, (AP): Money is not the only thing, says the World Bank, people in Bangladesh have less food than they did 20 years ago, but the high birth rate is down, fewer babies die, more of them get into school and they can expect to live longer.

Bangladesh is among 100 Third World countries surveyed by the bank, which is their biggest source of aid to raise living standards. The bank is owned by 151 governments, with the United States holding the largest block of shares.

It recently published its newest figures in a volume called "Social Indicators of Development — 1987."

"The ultimate goal of development is to improve the human condition, especially for the least privileged members of society,"

the introduction to the report says.

It notes that some people see better social services as a result of increased wealth, while others see social changes as a cause of economic change. More schooling makes people better earners, for example.

Success

Some Third World countries provide success stories in many ways. In 1965 the average South Korean earned \$130 a year. The most recent estimate is \$2,370 — not much compared with the \$16,690 in the United States, but high by Asian standards and a huge leap forward.

South Korea has long had a good standard of education, and now 91 per cent of the girls are in secondary school compared with only one out of four back in 1965. At least half of South Korean households have electricity and there are only 300 people per

nurse instead of 3,000 in 1965. Only 27 babies out of 1,000 die in their first year, compared with 63, and the average baby can expect to live to 69 years rather than 56 in 1965.

For comparison, the average number of infant deaths in Western industrial countries is about nine per 1,000 and life expectancy in the United States in 1984 was just over 76 years.

Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest countries. Incomes average only \$160 a year, but that is up from \$70 in 1965.

Die

Of every 1,000 babies born in Bangladesh, 123 die in their first year, which is at least better than in 1965, when the figure was 153. Life expectancy in Bangladesh is now 51 years, up from 44. There is a nurse for every 15,500, instead one for every 30,400.

People in the poorer countries of non-communist Europe are better off than any in Asia except those in the most prosperous areas such as Japan and Singapore. Incomes in Greece, Portugal and Turkey are five times what they are in 1965, in terms of present US dollars, and the quality of life has improved too.

Greece now averages 87 autos for every 1,000 people, compared with 12 in 1965, and only 13 new babies are born per 1,000 residents each year compared with 18 in 1965. The US birth rate in 1986 was between 15 and 16 per 1,000, and there are about two motor vehicles for every three Americans.

Portuguese primary schools have a teacher for every 18 children, down from 32 in 1965. In Turkey, 62 per cent of the married women use family planning, and the birth rate is down to 30 per 1,000 from 41.

Latin America has done less well, but even Haiti and Bolivia, two of the poorest countries in the region, have fewer babies, more schooling, more cars and better access to safe water than they used to.

North Yemen walks international tightrope

By John Fullerton

SANAA, (Reuters): North Yemen walks a hazardous tightrope to maintain its hard-won independence and secure enough stability to attract foreign investment.

Washington, Moscow and Peking all provide crucial aid for development in the impoverished but strategic state on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

Yet, say diplomats, no foreign power has gained an upper hand in Yemen's affairs. The country has never been colonised.

"Everyone is invited to the party but no one gets his hands on the host," said a Sanaa-based Arab diplomat.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh stresses non-alignment and the state's nationalist Arab credentials, rooted in the October 1962 revolution which Egypt helped.

Saleh has survived no fewer than three assassination bids in nine years of uninterrupted rule and suspicion is widespread of foreign involvement in attempts to kill him or to topple his leadership.

Ambivalent

Political observers say relations with Marxist South Yemen are, at best, ambivalent and diplomats see rising tension between Sanaa and Aden over the fate of deposed South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammed and his followers.

An Aden court on Saturday sentenced Nasser and 34 followers to death in a mass trial of 107 people for treason. Saleh on Friday had telephoned Ali Salem Al-Baidh, secretary general of Aden's ruling party, to urge him defer sentencing.

The court sentenced to death by firing squad a total of 19 fugitives and 16 defendants who appeared in court.

Korean plane crash: a story fit for a movie

By Graham Earnshaw

SEOUL, (Reuters): The story of Korean Air Lines flight 858 has all the ingredients of a spy movie — mass murder, time bombs, suicide capsules, international intrigue and a mysterious young woman who holds the key to the mystery.

But the plot, stretching around the world from Japan to East Germany, is so complex and fantastic that it was proposed as a film, it might well be rejected.

The story of the South Korean Boeing 707 with 115 people on board which disappeared on Nov 29 and the mystery couple who tried to commit suicide in Bahrain, is far from over.

But here is the scenario so far:

Scene one: KAL flight 858 took off from Baghdad on a flight to Seoul. Most of those on board were South Korean construction workers coming home from the Middle East.

The plane stopped in Abu Dhabi to refuel. Fifteen passengers off before continuing on east across the Indian Ocean. It disappeared to the west of Burma as it approached Bangkok for a fuel stop.

There have been reports of wreckage in the Andaman Sea.

Scene two: As soon as the jet vanished, the authorities in Abu Dhabi checked the 15 passengers who disembarked. Two were carrying Japanese passports, and Tokyo reported that at least one of the passports was fake.

According to the passports, the couple were a 69-year-old man and 23-year-old woman, both named Hachiyu, posing as father and daughter.

Nasser and a large number of his supporters fled to North Yemen after bloody clashes in January 1986 between factions of the South's ruling Marxist Party.

To the north, Sanaa officials insist that relations with its giant neighbour Saudi Arabia are excellent, but public resentment of Riyadh is growing over border disputes.

North Yemen inaugurated its first oil exports on Thursday, and the expected revenue of \$600 million to 700 million a year is expected to boost both agriculture and industry.

That should strengthen Sanaa's political self-determination, but some observers say several obstacles remain.

Saleh said last week he considered North and South Yemen one nation, a repeat of the official line that unity is desirable.

Danger

But a high-level source close to the government told Reuters that Aden's Marxist rulers pose the most immediate danger to the North's sovereignty.

"It is the only place that has grand designs and specific plans to destabilise us," he said.

The Aden-backed Marxists of the North Yemeni National Democratic Front (NDF) still had representation on the South's ruling politburo.

"We say they should withdraw NDF representation to demonstrate their good intentions," the source said.

The NDF mounted guerrilla attacks in several North Yemeni towns in 1979, throughout 1981 and again in 1982.

Saleh has promised fresh national assembly elections and although no date has been set, it is popularly believed the move could antagonise both Aden and Riyadh — because they are said to fear experiments in popular democracy.

The 42-year-old president has

set his face against the one-party system adopted by his south neighbours.

Saudi Arabia's hard line on ill-defined border, especially the north where it runs through the desert empty quarter, is source of much anxiety through out North Yemen.

"We are sitting on a time bomb," the Saudis are still taking our land, inch by inch and day by day," said an influential North Yemeni tribal sheikh.

The high-level source told Reuters: "Recent infringements are exaggerated in the public eye... but demands made by the Saudis are as injurious to us as anything done by Imam Yahya."

Imam Yahya in 1934 handed over the regions of Thama and Najran to Ibn Saud by treaty. But to most North Yemenis, it is still very much their land.

"Psychologically and historically, there is an atmosphere of defeat," the source said.

Saudi Arabia backed the royalists in the 1962-1969 civil war, and it seized the northern towns of Sharoura and Wadiya. "The Saudis are very much aware of feelings here and they are right when they say we have benefitted enormously from the earnings of our workers there."

Riyadh was disappointed by what it saw as a lack of Yemeni gratitude.

"Oman and South Yemen claim part of the desert and so do we... but the Saudis have not once indicated any willingness to share rights in the area," he said.

The huge wasteland lies just north of the oil-rich Marib Basin, where the Dallas-based Hunt Oil Company has helped North Yemen develop the Alif oil field.

The source said that last May an elaborate plot was uncovered to overthrow that Sanaa government, involving a plan to murder Saleh and other senior North Yemenis.

Finally, according to South Korean newspaper reports, she told Bahrain investigators she was Chinese, named Bai Huahui, born in the far northeast province of Heilongjiang.

The press reports quoted her as saying she left China several years ago for the Portuguese-administered territory of Macao on China's south coast where she was employed by the dead man as a "housemaid and companion."

Scene four: Investors tried to piece together the couple's movements up to KAL 858, following their trail from Hong Kong to Eastern Europe and Yugoslavia and on to Baghdad.

The Seoul press reported that among their possessions were snapshots taken in East Germany and Japanese Seven Stars cigarettes of a kind not sold in Japan for four years.

Gunpowder traces found amongst their belongings strengthened the time bomb theory. In Belgrade, a source at the hotel the couple stayed in between Nov 23 and 28, the day before KAL 858 took off, said the woman once met three "oriental" men in the hotel, all wearing virtually identical suits resembling uniforms.

Scene five: South Korea applied to the Bahrain authorities for the extradition of the woman and Bahrain officials said she would probably be handed over to South Korea.

The timing of her transfer from Bahrain to Seoul is being kept secret.

And scene six? How the story will end is still anyone's guess.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1577 — Danzig surrenders to Stephen Bathory, king of Poland.
- 1659 — General Monk in Scotland calls for free parliament.
- 1740 — Prussia's Frederick II enters Silesia and begins first Silesian war.
- 1773 — American colonists, dressed as Indians, stage Boston Tea Party against British ship, dumping 342 chests of tea overboard.
- 1800 — Russia, Sweden, Denmark and Prussia sign second armed neutrality of the north to counter British right of search.
- 1838 — Boers defeat Zulus on Blood River, Natal.
- 1879 — Transvaal Republic is proclaimed.
- 1884 — Britain recognises International Association of the Congo.
- 1916 — Gregory Rapsutin, monk who wielded powerful influence over Russian Czar is murdered.
- 1944 — German forces begin "Battle of the Bulge" in Ardennes area of Belgium in World War II.
- 1966 — UN Security Council votes 11-0 to invoke economic sanctions against white minority government in Rhodesia.
- 1967 — 28-nation United Nations panel agrees on pact for rescue of astronauts in event of space mishaps.
- 1971 — Indian military forces capture Dacca, and Pakistani Army in East Pakistan surrenders. India declares a ceasefire.
- 1972 — US Apollo 17 spacecraft heads for earth after final scheduled US manned exploration of the moon.
- 1986 — Two more areas are put under curfew in Karachi, Pakistan, where rioting killed 146 people in two days.

هكذا مات الأمل



CAPITAINE de Valsseau Musset (left) gives orders to the crew of the French warship Duplex, as it joins American warship USS Gallery for an unexpected drill in the Gulf. Warship Duplex belongs to French Navy's ships sent to the Gulf to protect super tankers and merchant ships. (Reuter radiophoto)



OPPOSITION presidential candidate Kim Dae Jung is framed by two campaign posters of himself during a press conference at his headquarters yesterday. Kim said on the eve of the election that if ruling party candidate Roh Tae Woo is declared winner, he would face resistance from all sections of the community. (Reuter radiophoto)



PALESTINE Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat speaking to Reuters in Baghdad about the Israeli Army attacks against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, which he said had left 32 of them killed and over 300 injured over the past six days. (Reuter radiophoto)



FILE photographs of French diplomats Marcel Fontaine (left) and Marcel Carton, missing in Lebanon since March 22, 1985. The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad (Holy war) group claimed responsibility for the abduction of the two diplomats, held for 999 days yesterday. (Reuter radiophoto)



A WOMAN'S umbrella is blown inside out as she and a fellow St. Louisan make their way across the street in a driving snowstorm in downtown St. Louis, Missouri on Monday as snowstorms hit the Midwest. (Reuter radiophoto)



TORGNY Mogren of Sweden (right) crosses the finish line to win the World Cup 30 kilometre cross country ski race yesterday. On the left, second placed Gunde Svan of Sweden. (Reuter radiophoto)



JAPANESE Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita stands at attention with Philippine President Corason Aquino (above left) as they listen to national anthems after Takeshita arrived yesterday in Manila for the Asean summit. It is the first visit by the new prime minister outside of Japan. Leaders of the Asean nations attend the second session of the summit as their aides stand behind them. Left to right (above right) Sultan Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah, Prime Minister of Brunei; President Suharto of Indonesia; Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia; Corason Aquino; Lee Kuan Yew, President of Singapore; and Prem Tinsulanonda, Prime Minister of Thailand. (Reuter radiophoto)



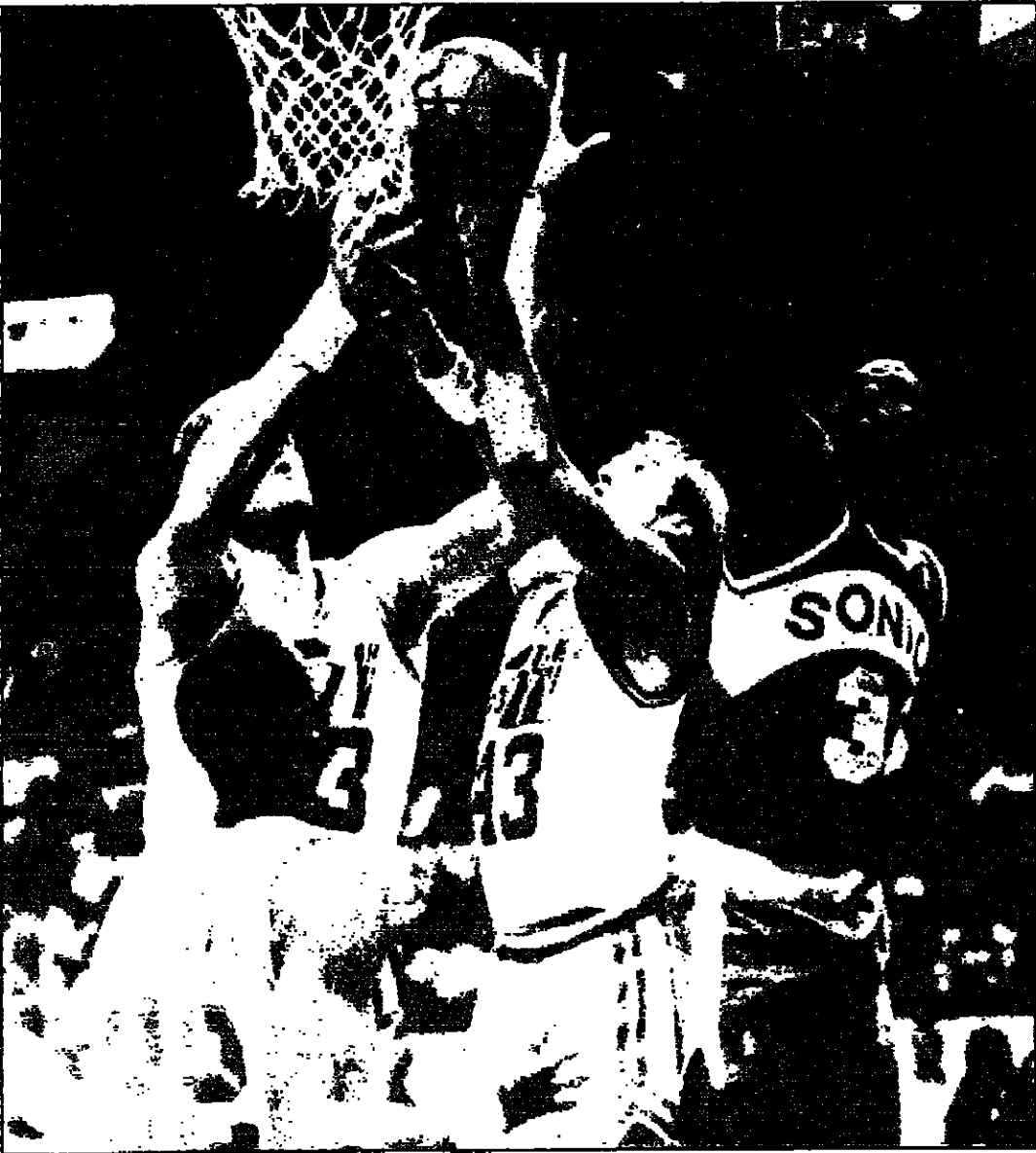
THE Secretary-General of Opec, Nigerian Oil Minister Alhaji Riiwanu Lukman (right) and the Deputy Secretary-General Dr Fadhil Alchalabi give a press conference after all Opec states except Iraq agreed to keep their 18-dollar oil price. (Reuter radiophoto)



AN OFFICIAL police photograph of the mystery woman, suspected of links with the disappearance of a Korean Airlines (KAL) plane. The woman, identified in her false passport as Mayum Hachiya, arrived in Seoul on Tuesday. (Reuter radiophoto)



ESQUIRE Magazine's January issue contains the publication's "Dubious Achievements" awards and is highlighted by a special commemorative poster. The poster features actress Beverly D'Angelo appearing as Tammy Faye Bakker (left) and Jessica Hahn. (Reuter radiophoto)



UTAH JAZZ Mark Eaton (53), Mark Iavaroni (43) and Karl Malone (32) surround the ball as Xavier McDaniel (34) of the Seattle SuperSonics tries to retrieve the rebound at a game in Salt Lake City, Utah on Monday. (Reuter radiophoto)



BRITAIN'S Duchess of York wears her wings at RAF Benson, west of London on Monday as she holds up her private helicopter pilot's licence that she won today. The Duchess had her wings pinned on by her naval Sea King helicopter pilot husband, the Duke of York. (Reuter radiophoto)

OUTLOOK

By Kathy Cuddihy

The best of form

THE last days of 1987 are fast drawing to a close. I don't have to look at the calendar to know this: a population under pressure gives the show away. It's not unusual that everyone frantically dashes about trying to get things done before the end of December. The amazing thing is that everyone always acts so startled by the suddenness of the season, as though they've been caught off guard. Why? The Gregorian calendar is so predictable: the end of December falls at the same time every year!

Part of the panic stems from the commercially promoted tradition of sending greeting cards. With the exception of corporate executives who can delegate the task to fleets of secretaries, anyone who sends a lot of cards knows that the chore can be tedious and seemingly endless, especially if a letter gets tucked into each card. The punishing physical experience is made worse by the accompanying psychological burden.

The first nagging pangs of conscience often strike by early October when we burst with good intentions and a determined sense of efficiency. Everyone plans to beat the rush and get their cards done early for a change. It's a familiar lullaby but this year we really mean it...

In November, confidence diminishes in equal proportion to lack of progress. By now the tension is mounting. Like a bill of disturbed ants, everyone bolts about looking busy, all the while, convincing themselves that there's still plenty of time. After all, the New Year doesn't begin until the first of January. How long can mail delivery take in this day and age?

December sees the stamp of hysteria in the eyes of laggards. The once ambitious list



grows shorter and shorter as names get decimated in conjunction with the rapidly approaching deadline for overseas mail. Surviving names are impetuously divided into three categories: "Must Send", "Should Send", and "Might Send".

In a frantic, last-ditch effort to cope, many of us lesser mortals finally resort to the much maligned Form Letter. For some reason, this category of correspondence inspires a paradox in most of us. Few of us like to admit to others that we ourselves resort to such

tacky tactics. Yet don't we all suffer at least a mild disappointment if we receive a card and find no letter or even a hastily penned note enclosed? Surely Form Letters — those impersonal, typewritten, photocopied epistles — have a special value, especially if they come from family and friends with whom we may not be in contact during the rest of the year.

For the past two years I have clearly avoided the pitfalls and derogatory comments inspired by Form Letters — and still managed to

send original, 2-page letters with most of the 200 cards on my list. The thanks for such productivity goes to my wonderful electronic typewriter. Its prodigious memory held the basic text while stop codes allowed me to insert personal comments on each letter. I don't think any of the recipients ever suspected that mine was just another Form Letter, albeit an up-market version.

But this year? Despite my determination (I began addressing envelopes in September, for goodness' sake!) I have yet to actually get a card in the mail. The command "Do Form Letter" appears daily in large red letters at the top of my list of things to do, but somehow other priorities take precedence. There's always a more urgent deadline that has to be met. I haven't even got around to eliminating names from my list. Worse, the list keeps growing! It has a life of its own at this stage! It's now so late in the year that there's no longer any point in going to the trouble of categorising names.

To help weather the crisis, my internal self-defense mechanism has come to the rescue. I've developed the attitude that belated greetings create a greater impression. Those who know me well enough won't be surprised when a card wishing them "All the Best in the New Year" slips through their letter boxes in mid May. Isn't it nice to know that there's someone who cares, not just at the end of the year, but in the middle too?

And if I word the enclosed letter just right, the people who don't know me so well might be confused enough to wonder whether I'm late with the 1987 cards or early with greetings for 1988. That could get me off the hook next year... when I'm caught off guard yet again.

Top fashion model tells of pin scratches, runny noses

It's not all glamour behind the catwalks

By Barbara Bright

PARIS. (Reuters): The glamour and glitter associated with the world's top fashion shows mask an exhausting job that star model Susanna Linsmayer says demands discipline, a sense of humour and a healthy constitution.

Dark-haired, bright-eyed Linsmayer who models the top designers' clothes in Paris, Milan, New York and London, said she can always count on a runny nose after Paris, where shows are held in drafty tents in a courtyard of the Louvre museum.

In all the capitals, she must endure being pawed, tugged and straightened for up to 16 hours a day during the international marathon of autumn and spring fashion shows that set the trends for what much of the Western world wears.

"Sometimes people forget that we're human beings because they're so into their clothes," Linsmayer said with a grimace in an interview at the Paris collections, during which a jury of international fashion journalists named her one of the top five mannequins.

"I had my fittings yesterday and my whole body's pinned in... three scratches here, one scratch here, one down here," she said, pointing to her shoulder, arm and leg.

Those liabilities Linsmayer describes as 'banal', remarking that there are things people hate in every profession.

"It doesn't make any sense if you wimp around and complain all the time," said the 179 cm (5 feet 11 inches) beauty, who weighs 50 kilos (110

pounds). She comes from West Germany, and speaks Italian, French and English.

Linsmayer, who has a cleft in her chin, can be sprightly, sultry or elegant on the catwalk. She said most people describe her beauty as 'classic'.

She has no beauty secrets, other than keeping her skin fastidiously clean. "I really think beauty comes from inside... when you worry you frown, so when I catch myself I press pressure points and try to relax. You don't need to have distress or bitterness in your face."

Naturally thin, she keeps trim by playing squash. The fittings, she explained, can be crucial for the success of a fashion show, and are therefore critical to the industry.

"If you put a very beautiful dress onto the wrong girl, which is not her style or the right colour or she can't carry it well, then you can spoil a very good sell."

A fashion show, she said, "is not for the grand spectacle but for selling."

"It's for supporting an enormous economy down to factories that make sewing machines. It's all big business... I help to sell the clothes, and they turn over millions."

Linsmayer's role in the industry is well paid. She declines to reveal exactly how much, but fashion sources estimate top models earn more than 1,000 dollars a show on the twice-yearly international ready-to-wear circuit, where she worked 27 shows in Milan, four in London just for friends' and 13 in Paris.

She also regularly works the haute couture or made to



Susanna Linsmayer who models the top designers' clothes presents a Christian Dior dress in Paris.

measure fashion shows held in January and in July each year.

Linsmayer said that she does not earn the stratospheric sums commanded by such models as sultry Somali Iman Hayward or Jerry Hall, who is married to rock star Mick Jagger.

"They have a jet-set life. Whoever uses them gets more publicity... it's a fact of business."

The 28-year-old Linsmayer was an economics student in her hometown of Munich only

eight years ago.

She paid cash for her flat in West London and she's planning to buy a country house. She has a BMW and an old MG sports car.

She collects antique jewellery. She always flies first class.

Linsmayer plans to marry next year, and she hopes to start a family by the time she's 30.

"I have a luxury lifestyle and it's very easy for me to support that," she said.

Cockroach art: not for the squeamish

By Robert Basler

PEKING. (Reuters): Cao Yichian's style of art was once in danger of dying out, and squeamish visitors to China might ask why he didn't just let it.

Cao practises the old and delicate art of Mao Ho, which translates as "hairy monkey" but among tourists here is more commonly known as "cockroach art" as its principal medium is insect parts.

The Mao Ho sculptures, a common sight in Peking gift shops and friendship stores, consist of tiny three-dimensional insect creations as domesticated as the bugs on an advertisement for ant and roach spray.

Cao uses 2,000 insects a month and keeps big sacks of the brittle black bugs in his modest home in one of Peking's winding mazes of alleyways.

"When I run out of insects I

go to the villages for more," he says. "The farmers save them — they all know me."

Mao Ho, which Cao traces to the 19th century Qing dynasty, combines the bugs — more precisely the remains of Cicadas — with furry magnolia buds to produce figures enacting scenes of sport, war, politics and daily life.

Displayed in glass cases, the figures have bellies made from the magnolia buds and arms, legs and heads made from the insects.

Cao's creatures play tennis, make music, get married and die. Dressed as little bugs doctors, they offer aspirin. Dressed as soldier bugs they torture enemy bugs.

There are also scenes with just one insect, and huge ones like a 40-bug wedding procession, with ornate little bug costumes and bug musicians playing cymbals, flutes and drums. Sport is a common subject,

especially in the scenes that Cao creates on request.

"One American commissioned a whole football team," he says. "It was going to be a prize."

Cao, now 62, saw his first samples of Mao Ho as a young man on visits to art bazaars in Peking, where he says his family has lived for more than 300 years.

When the dust settled after the Communist revolution in 1949, Mao Ho seemed to have vanished. Cao, a young artist in search of a style, decided to revive it but found the artists were dead and that their works had been too fragile to survive the passing years.

"I had seen people do it and I just pieced together my memory," he says. "I taught myself."

Then came the ultra-left cultural revolution of the late 1960s, and with it vicious persecution of many artists. "The

red guards came in and threw away all the things I had made. I could do nothing about it," he remembers sadly.

When life became safer for artists again, Cao returned to Mao Ho in his spare time from his official job of designing video screens.

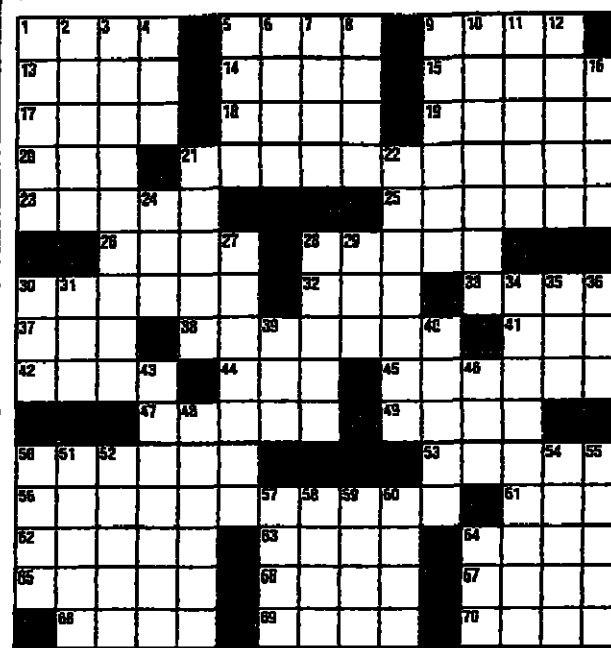
A few years ago he retired and took up the art full-time.

On a cold autumn day in Peking there is no heat in Cao's tiny home and there will be none for several days, until government regulations allow it to be turned on.

But Cao, wearing a heavy jacket in a living-room dominated by a picture of revolutionary Chou En Lai, warms himself with a cup of thick hot chocolate and praises the reformist leaders who succeeded Mao Tse Tung.

"Now I'm much happier. I have freedom," he says. "Because of the current stability, I can have creativity."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Rigging holder
 - 5 Headliner
 - 9 Monthlies, for short
 - 13 Skiers' mecca
 - 14 Sound
 - 15 Space center rocket
 - 17 Threatening
 - 18 "Turandot" high point
 - 19 Food fishes
 - 20 Boulogne buddy
 - 21 Athletic field competitors
 - 23 Payoff
 - 25 Harass
 - 26 Region: Abbr.
 - 28 Memorable musical director
 - 30 — penguin
 - 32 Tankard filler
 - 33 Hades' mother
 - 37 Wolf's clothing?
 - 38 Schedules
 - 41 GI's dog tags
 - 42 Prove
 - 44 Dancer Miller
 - 45 Chicken parts
 - 47 Clever
 - 49 Express boredom
 - 50 Underscore
 - 53 Make use of
 - 56 Athletic field competitor
 - 61 Brazilian rubber tree
 - 62 Tickle
 - 63 Study
 - 64 Feds
- DOWN**
- 1 Letter opener
 - 2 Texas shrine
 - 3 Track competitors
 - 4 Disapproving sound
 - 5 — Jahan, builder of the Taj Mahal
 - 6 Elephant's ear
 - 7 Touched down
 - 8 Harvest
 - 9 Dull finishes
 - 10 Actress Jenny
 - 11 "The Balcony" playwright
 - 12 Carine warning
 - 16 Caama
 - 21 Neighbor of Turkey
 - 22 Deceases
 - 24 Slippery one
 - 27 Henley competition
 - 28 1981 Caron film
 - 29 Word with hand or hat
 - 30 Sternward
 - 31 En route
 - 34 Athletic field events
 - 35 Anglo-Saxon letter

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ALMOST AS CHEAP AS POSSIBLE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 10 9 2
 ♥ K 10 7 5
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ A 10 5 2

WEST
 ♠ 8 7
 ♥ J 6 4
 ♦ J 7 6 2
 ♣ Q 9 6 4

EAST
 ♠ Q J 5 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ K 10 9 4 3
 ♣ J 7 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 6 4
 ♥ A Q 8 3 2
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ K 8

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

We have said it before: The average

player watches the high cards; the expert notes every card. When the average player thinks of a finesse, he thinks in terms of an A-Q or a K-J tenace; the expert looks for any tenace. You can't go much lower than today's example.

Sitting in the South seat in a duplicate event was an old-fashioned player who liked to bid by the seat of his pants—we don't recommend Blackwood when you have two fast losers in a suit. However, the final contract was reasonable—only the duplication in diamonds and spades put the contract in any jeopardy.

West led the eight of spades, covered by the nine and jack and won

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BAIS	SPATS	SIED
ANTI	TAROT	POPE
HELD	ADANO	AKIN
TWOEGGS	BENEDICT	
LUG	EWB	
REFINE	SADE	IMP
EDEN	BEAM	RADIO
EIRE	SALEP	LETS
SLASH	SANE	LAZE
EEL	ABED	RAISIN
ERA	OIVA	
BRANDY	ALEXANDER	
RANT	ALIBI	CAPE
ETTE	RAZED	EVEN
WEAR	DEANE	SEED

by the king. Declarer drew trumps in three rounds, ending in dummy, then led the ten of spades, intending to let it ride if East played low. When East put up the queen and West dropped the seven, declarer noted that he had a finesse position in spades—his 6-4 were poised over East's 5-3. The ace of clubs provided an entry for a spade lead, and when East followed with the three spot, declarer confidently finessed.

When that held, declarer was able to discard the queen of diamonds from dummy. He made an over-trick, and a top score, as a result, because most declarers took the plectan diamond finesse and ended up with just 12 tricks. At rubber bridge, the overtrick would have yielded only personal satisfaction. At duplicate, the dividend was more tangible.

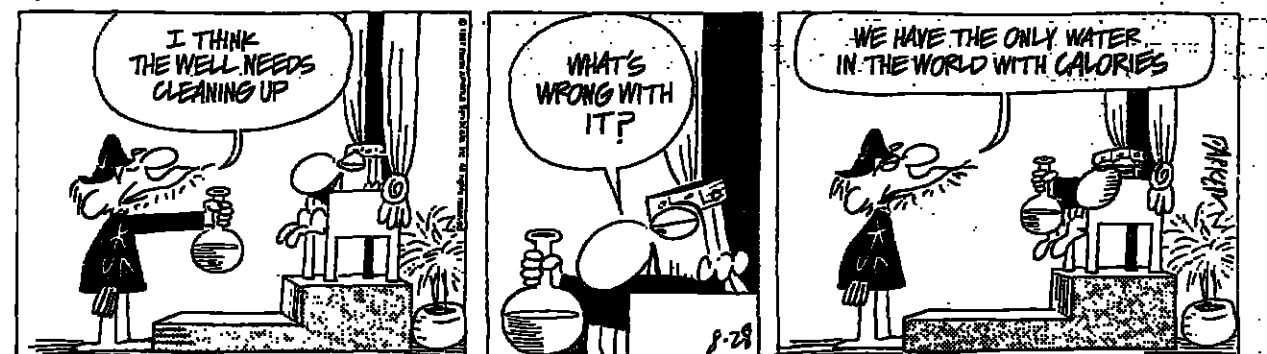


"Do you have an early retirement scheme? I really don't want to work longer than six months."



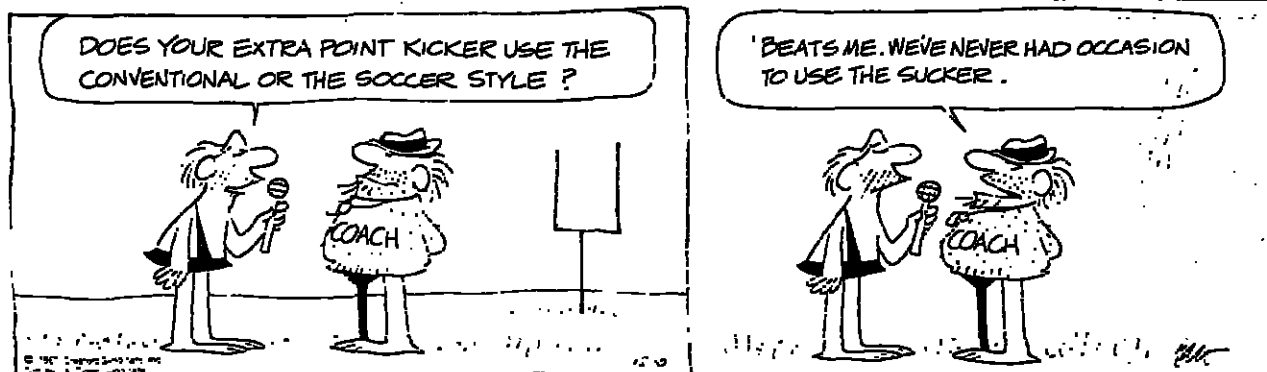
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You must guard against misunderstandings. You will have the energy you need to press forward but you must not misdirect it. Your personal situation will improve a little. Be cordial.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

For the rest of this week you will be able to make progress. However you must keep calm and avoid wasting time. Venus's influence will help you to make up your mind, particularly where presents are concerned. Be patient.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should take somewhat better care of your health. Do not think everything is of quite such critical importance. You should not always leave things to others. Take a little more personal interest. Be magnanimous.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

There will be some rivalry with your colleagues but you must not allow it to become acrimonious. Something you have set your heart upon will proceed extremely well. You should not hide your talents under a bushel. Be prompt.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Do not allow yourself to be intimidated by the magnitude of the task ahead of you: just get on with it. Others will try to dictate to you and you will be able to hold your own against them.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be able to take full advantage of a favourable situation. Venus's better influence will help you to avoid a pitfall. Listen to and take note of what others are saying. Be prudent.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

The Moon's influence will help you to make progress with one of your projects. You will have something to be pleased about. Have ready an answer for a question you may be asked. Be resolute.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will be able to maintain a steady working pace. You will be too inclined to believe that what you would like to be actually is. You must be sure that you do not divulge something told to you in confidence. Be cordial.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Avoid eating too many sweet or sour things. You will find it hard to do all that is demanded of you. Make sure you do not miss an essential detail. Be bold.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

If you feel tired make sure you have an early night. You should not delude yourself into thinking that you can perform miracles. You should take a greater interest in what is happening around you. Be frugal.



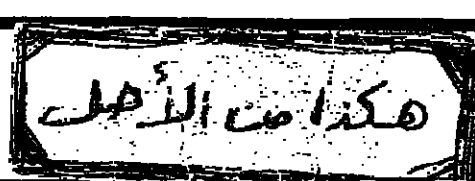
Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

At first all will go like a house on fire but later in the day you will encounter some difficulties. You should not let some triviality dispel your peace of mind. Make sure you do not place too much reliance on patent medicine. Be more patient.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will be able to make good progress with a personal matter. Do not leave Christmas shopping until the last minute. You should beware of taking what you hear at its face value. Be more tolerant.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Finnish trade team meets chamber chief

A FINNISH economic delegation headed by the Director General of the Foreign Relations Department Aalek Aalto yesterday met the president of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdel Aziz Al Saquer to discuss ways of enhancing bilateral trade ties.

Official sources at the chamber informed Kuna yesterday that the Finnish delegation which comprises director of the trade department at the foreign ministry Veli Ollikainen and 31 economic and trade experts discussed with Saquer possibilities of broadening commercial exchange between the two countries.

Investments

They added that the two sides looked into the possibilities of opening joint investments, particularly in the industrial field.

This meeting falls within meetings of the third session for the Finnish-Kuwait joint economic committee.

According to the latest statistics of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Finnish exports to Kuwait dropped from \$26.3 million in 1982 to only \$14 million in 1984. Finnish exports include typing paper, wood and handling equipment.

However, the statistics indicate that Kuwait exports to Finland is of meagre amounts, which tips the trade exchange scale in favour of Finland.

Hungary says its most profitable retail firms are private

BUDAPEST, Dec 15, (Reuters): Private enterprises in communist Hungary were more efficient, served their customers better and made 50 per cent more profit than those run by the state, the official Hungarian news agency MTI said today.

It said 4,500 privately managed shops and 7,500 restaurants — 26 per cent of all retail units in Hungary — had sprung up since a law allowing private management took effect in 1981.

"Experience shows that the new form of enterprise has added to a better meeting of demand," MTI said.

"The enterprises adapt to the needs of customers both in hours of opening and range. They produce 50 per cent higher profit than under their former owners, while cutting workforce and investment requirements by 10-20 per cent."

Higher

Prices at such enterprises are no higher than at other shops or restaurants, but entrepreneurs' monthly income of 10,000 to 30,000 forints (\$200 to 600) was between twice and five-fold the national average, MTI said.

Privately managed enterprises in Hungary — long the trail-blazer of market-oriented economic reforms in Eastern Europe — now accounted for 20 per cent of the turnover of internal trade, and 40 per cent of catering.

The entrepreneurs rent outlets from state companies or cooperatives after competitive bidding for a five-year contract. They buy their own goods and have no financial obligation towards the owner company except rent.

Invested

MTI said one billion forints (\$20 million) had been invested in such enterprises so far, but that the system of five-year contracts seemed to hamper further investment.

On expiry of each contract, bidding is reopened in a measure designed to bring about competition among applicants and higher profit for the owner company.

Iran to export buses to Pakistan

ZAHEDAN, Iran, Dec 15, (Opecna): Iran will shortly export 200 buses to Pakistan under a trade agreement signed recently between the two countries, it was announced here.

Speaking to members of the Sistan-Baluchistan Export Commission, an official of the Iranian embassy in Islamabad said under the accord, Iranian-made medicines would also be exported to Pakistan.

Trade between the two countries is now running at about \$300 million a year, would soon go up to 400 million, he added.

He said about two million tons of goods from Pakistan would be imported via the Mir-Javah border.

President must take 'more aggressive measures to overcome problems'

Mubarak tries to awaken economy

CAIRO, Dec 15, (Reuters): Much as one might prod a slumbering beast, President Hosni Mubarak is stirring Egypt's economy awake with more determination than seen before in his six-year rule.

The nation is ahead of schedule on a monetary reform package agreed to in May by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a deal which led to a rescheduling of its substantial debts.

The effect has been a slow but steady devaluation of the Egyptian pound and a gradual fall in state subsidies for fuel and some basic foods which strain the exchequer.

The inflationary moves pinched the pockets of the poor — and grumbles are being monitored by government officials and diplomats of Western states backing the largest Arab country.

Mindful

Mubarak, mindful of 1977 riots caused by bread price rises under the late President Anwar Sadat, avoided dramatic action and imposed the reforms quietly.

But diplomats say he must take more aggressive measures to overcome long-term problems caused by there being too many people, too little arable land and

a sluggish state sector. "Medicine is not often tasty. But it's unavoidable and it's for the better health of the country," said Ahmed Dersh, a senior official in the ministry of economy and foreign trade.

He recalls gloomier days in 1985-86 when prices for Egypt's oil crashed and Middle East violence discouraged tourists.

Decline

"Never in the modern history of Egypt did so much decline happen in the major earners in such a short period. And at the same time, debt obligations reached a climax," Dersh said.

Now, oil prices have improved. Tourists, especially from Western Europe and the Arab world, are returning in force. And as a result of the IMF deal, creditors in the so-called Paris Club agreed to reschedule about \$10 billion of Egypt's \$40 billion debt.

Mubarak's biggest step has been to create more realistic exchange rates for the Egyptian pound — a de facto devaluation.

In two stages, Egypt moved 80 per cent of transactions previously conducted at an artificially low "commercial rate" to a new officially-sanctioned "market rate."

The former has been allowed



Hosni Mubarak

to creep up, from 1.35 pounds to the dollar in May to about 1.77. The market rate, set daily by a committee of state bankers, has risen from 2.16 to 2.23.

Diplomats expect the government to move the last 20 per cent of transactions still conducted at the commercial rate to the market rate at year-end — six months ahead of the IMF schedule.

The measures make public sector importers and producers pay more realistic prices for foreign parts or raw materials.

Consumers, bolstered for decades by subsidies which cost

the state more than \$2 billion a year, are often paying the added costs.

Electricity, tomato paste, cooking oil, kerosene, cigarettes, pasta, detergent and soap have all risen in price. Rations of sugar, tea and other basics have been cut.

But devaluation should promote exports, which have received further support from reformers backing through mounds of red tape at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade.

A licence for some commodities — which once needed about 60 signatures — now required 16 government officials' report.

"There has been a considerable streamlining of the export formalities," said a Western diplomat. "It now can be completed in less than a week, compared to months in the past."

In agriculture, several stifling price controls have been lifted, giving incentive to farmers previously required to sell their produce at a minimal profit.

The effect of such moves has been a slow alteration of the socialism established by the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser in favour of more stress on capitalist-style motivation.

But while Western economists praise the action so far, they fear the government may get complacent, and say that, without more aggressive steps, long-term economic prospects are grim.

A population of 52 million, for instance, continues to swell at a rate of more than one million every eight months.

Oil, the most important export resource, is forecast to run out by the end of 1990s. The Nile, Egypt's lifeline, is threatened by the worst drought this century.

Challenge

The challenge, analysts say, is to use the breathing space offered by the debt rescheduling for further, drastic changes.

The IMF would like more cuts in subsidies and a smaller budget deficit, 5.6 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion). It also wants higher interest rates to attract more hard currency from more than one million Egyptians who work abroad, diplomats say.

Experts reckon Egyptians hold as much as \$70 billion outside the country.

Already, there is evidence that this year's currency reforms are being undermined. The black market, which all but died in May, shows renewed vigor, offering rates five to 10 per cent above the official rate.

Kuwait loan for Egyptian pharmaceutical industry

CAIRO, Dec 15, (Opecna): Kuwait will extend a loan of \$35.6 million to Egypt help finance the development of the pharmaceutical industry in the country.

The credit is to be signed by Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jaseem Mohammed Al Khorafi during his visit to Egypt beginning January 25.

While here, the minister will also hold talks with Egyptian officials on issues of common interest.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian and Dubai chambers of commerce agreed yesterday to set up a joint holding company for establishing industrial projects in Egypt.

Volume

Production from these industries will be geared for export to the United Arab Emirates.

Saeed Gomaa, head of the Dubai chamber of commerce and industry, said here that the volume of trade between Egypt and the UAE had reached \$26.4 million last year and was expected to increase substantially this year.

Despite rising yen

Japanese exporters make comeback

TOKYO, Dec 15, (AP): Japanese manufacturers, faced with a sharp decline in exports blamed on the soaring value of yen, are adapting to the crunch with new strategies that include boosting sales on the domestic market.

In the two years the Japanese currency began its rapid rise against the US dollar, automakers, electronics companies and steel plants have slashed operating costs, sacrificed profits and curbed exports — and begun to turn losses into gains.

In the year ended last March, major Japanese manufacturers of export goods listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange suffered 7.4 per cent profit losses across the board, according to the Wako Economics Research Institute.

But by next March, Wako said, they will be posting 3.4 per cent gains.

Predictions

The results defy the government's own initial predictions. In April the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said outlying industrial areas faced ruin if the dollar fell to the 140-yen level from its level of 242 yen in September 1985, when Japan and other nations agreed to

devalue the US currency to help cut Washington's trade deficit.

By early December the yen was fluctuating around the 130-yen range, and Japan's Central Bank anticipated manufacturers' pretax earnings would grow by 7 per cent in the second half of fiscal 1987, ending March 31, 1988.

"Now (Japanese companies) can be competitive even at a 130-yen per dollar level," said Osamu Yoshikawa, a Wako researcher. Officials refuse to predict how much further the yen will rise, but no one is saying the trend will stop. A stronger yen makes Japanese exports more expensive and less competitive abroad.

At Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, exports fell to 24.9 per cent of total sales in 1986, from 27.1 per cent a year earlier. "All Japanese businesses are operating under the same condition,"

the high yen," MHI President Yotaro Iida said in an interview. "It's like playing golf in a heavy rain."

Iida has urged his 47,000 workers to help raise the quality of MHI's products that includes ships, air conditioners and aerospace systems as part of its strategy to cope with higher production costs brought on by the stronger yen.

MHI introduced automated equipment in its manufacturing process and began developing more value-added goods, turning away from heavy industrial products and shipbuilding to more sophisticated new materials and computer parts.

Sales

The company had sales of 788.5 billion yen (\$5.97 billion) in the six-month period ended in September, up 6.7 per cent from a year ago. Consolidated profit figures for the same period were unavailable. MHI says it has no plans to revise its 1989 sales target of 2.5 trillion yen (\$18.9 billion), set months before the yen began to soar.

Many large corporations have transferred less complex assem-

bly-line processes to overseas plants, shuffled employees among company divisions and diversified operations. Nippon Steel, for one, is planning to build an amusement park and a retirement home.

Rather than leave Japanese work forces idle, most companies have drawn on advanced research and development to gear factories in Japan toward high-tech production — using well-trained, highly skilled employees to their best advantage, economists say.

Hard

"Our product engineers are working hard to cut the manufacturing cost of a small switch used in an electronic gadget as much as possible, even if it's by just one yen or half a yen," said an official of Sony Corp., which manufactures products ranging from Walkman cassette players to computer chips.

Sony's consolidated sales of 643.9 billion yen (\$4.9 billion) were up 4.1 per cent in the half-year period ended in September compared with a year earlier. Consolidated earnings fell 34.9 per cent, but Sony expects them to climb 7 per cent by the end of fiscal 1987.

US industrial output on the rise

WASHINGTON, Dec 15, (Reuters): US industrial production boomed ahead in November, paced by heavy manufacturing firms that benefit from sales abroad, the Federal Reserve said yesterday, but a prominent economists' group said half its members foresaw a recession in 1988.

The US central bank said production by factories, mines and utilities rose by 0.4 per cent last month after a 0.9 per cent increase during October and was 5.4 per cent higher than a year ago.

The increase reflected more production of manufacturing and commercial equipment, the US central bank said, while output of consumer goods was unchanged from October and little changed since August.

But the National Association of Business Economists, representing 4,000 government and business economists, said seven per cent of its members believed the United States was in a recession now and 43 per cent more thought recession was likely before the end of 1988.

A business recession is generally defined as two successive

quarters in which total output of goods and services, or GNP, declines.

The economists said the October 1987 stock market crash and congressional refusal to attack towering government budget deficits by slashing defence and social spending were hurting US economic prospects.

"The stock market crash in October and growing disillusionment about the effectiveness of US economic policies are the likely factors contributing to the more pessimistic attitude of the nation's economists," the Association said in a quarterly report.

Shift

The output figures showed continued improvement in the manufacturing segment and a further shift from a consumer-led economy to one led by manufacturing and exports, which have benefited from a devalued US dollar that makes American-made goods cheaper for foreigners.

In a separate report, the Commerce Department said US business inventories rose \$5.55 billion or 0.8 per cent, during

October to a seasonally adjusted 687.87 billion. The October increase came after a \$3.88 billion, or 0.6 per cent September gain.

Business sales fell during October by \$236 million, or 0.1 per cent, to a seasonally adjusted \$462.19 billion from 462.43 billion in September.

Tom Megan, an economist with Washington-based Evans Economics, said industrial production had been rising in recent months at an annual rate approaching eight per cent but a downturn was likely soon.

"We don't expect this to continue much longer because consumer demand is due to be hit hard and retailers have to get their inventories down," Megan said.

"Industrial production is going to be cut back next year with consequent negative impact not only on production but on employment," he predicted.

Retailers' stocks of unsold goods rose during October to \$204.12 billion from 202.41 billion. Manufacturers' inventories went up to \$328.46 billion from 326.67 billion.

IMF told to participate in debt repayment

BELGRADE, Dec 15, (AP): Yugoslavia has asked the International Monetary Fund for help in the repayment and servicing of its \$19-billion foreign debt, a newspaper reported today.

The Yugoslav government yesterday decided to ask the IMF to sign a new agreement that will lead to the fund's "financial participation in the process of consolidating of Yugoslavia's foreign debt," said the Politika daily.

The report did not elaborate, but a ranking Yugoslav banking official, who requested anonymity, told the Associated Press that the country is seeking an unspecified amount in new IMF loans to honour its debt obligations.

Yugoslavia counts on the rescheduling of at least \$1.3 billion and obtaining \$2.1 billion in fresh loans in 1988, the official said.

World Business Summary

Jordan and Iraq discuss economic cooperation

AMMAN, Dec 15, (Reuters): Jordan began economic cooperation talks with Iraq, its biggest trade partner, today, the official news agency Petra reported. It said Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifa'i led the Jordanian side in talks with an Iraqi team headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. Jordanian Trade and Industry Minister Raja'i Al Muasher told the local Sawt Al Sha'b daily the two countries would discuss ways to expand trade, especially exports of Jordanian farm produce, phosphates and fertilisers to Iraq. They would also study future investment in industrial schemes and cooperation in energy, he said.

Jordan's exports to Iraq were worth about \$128 million last year while imports from Iraq were worth about 241 million. Central Bank figures show. Muasher was quoted as saying Jordan's exports to Iraq totalled \$120 million in the first 10 months of 1987. Iraq, strapped for cash because of its seven-year-old war with Iran, has a substantial debt to Jordan, two thirds of which is paid in crude oil and the rest by a clearing arrangement between the two central banks.

Jordan's Central Bank Deputy Governor Maher Shukri told Reuters in October the Iraqi debt had come down to \$530 million from 600 million at the beginning of the year.

Bank of Boston writes off \$200m in Third World loans

BOSTON, Dec 15, (AP): Bank of Boston Corp., one of the largest and most profitable US financial institutions, said yesterday it was writing off \$200 million in Third World loans.

The move means the Bank no longer considers the loans collectible. The bank also said it was establishing a \$430-million reserve for possible losses on its remaining \$800 million in Third World loans, which are mostly owed by Latin American countries. "These actions will have the further effect of leaving us with no future reliance on interest income from these loans," Bank President Ira Stepanian said in a statement released yesterday.

Bank of Boston Corp., a holding company with assets in excess of \$31 billion as of Sept 30, is the nation's 15th largest banking operation. Like other major lenders, the Bank established reserves last spring equivalent to about 25 per cent of its \$1-billion portfolio of loans to developing countries.

Perception

The Banks' exposure to possible bad loans is small in comparison to the largest US banks, such as Citibank and Chase Manhattan, which have loaned billions of dollars to Latin American and African nations. But when a major bank declares loans uncollectable, competitors often follow.

"There is just a general perception, among analysts and others, that perhaps the less-developed country loans are more and more questionable," Alan L. McKimmon, the bank's chief financial officer, said in an interview published in Today's editions of the New York Times.

Businessmen see UK growth despite crash

LONDON, Dec 15, (AP): Britain's top businesses are shrugging off the effects of the stock market plunge and are predicting production to grow strongly in the next four months, the Confederation of British Industry said today. The CBI, which represents 30,000 corporations and 200,000 member firms, said orders in manufacturing industry are at their best levels for a decade. However, there are signs that the strong British pound has begun to hurt British exports, it said. A strong pound makes British goods more expensive overseas. This month's survey, the first to take account of the effects of the October stock market crash, found 40 per cent of companies predicting their output would increase over the next four months, and only 9 per cent predicting a decline. "There is little in the survey to justify the nervousness we have seen in equity markets in recent weeks," said David Wigglesworth, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's economic situation committee. "Business confidence has held up very well and there is every prospect of the UK (United Kingdom) economy growing further next year," he said.

One-third of manufacturers said orders were higher than normal, and only 15 per cent said they were below normal, the survey showed. The positive balance of 18 per cent was the highest since the question was first asked in a CBI survey in 1977.

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India looks to Mideast fertiliser ventures

INDIA is one of the world's leading buyers of fertiliser. The requirements of a country where seven in 10 people work on the land are huge — and India is constantly seeking new sources of raw and manufactured fertiliser, according to MEED.

The Middle East is an important supplier. Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have all provided substantial quantities in the past. The build-up of imports, plus drought, means purchases have been reduced this year, but in the long term, the pressure to raise imports can only increase.

Partly because of this, and partly because India would like assured sources of supply, it is moving to establish joint fertiliser

ventures in several countries. The Middle East is particularly favoured, as freight costs from countries there are much lower than from regular importers such as Canada, for example.

Algeria is the latest country targeted for such a venture. India's Fertilisers & Chemicals Travancore (FACT) and Algeria's Entreprise Nationale d'Engineering Petrolier are preparing a prefeasibility report for a joint project based on Algerian rock phosphates. The output would be sold to India.

Attention shifted to Algeria after proposals for a joint venture in Morocco collapsed when relations cooled two years ago, following India's recognition of

the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in the Western Sahara.

Algeria has been trying to replace Morocco as a supplier of phosphate rock for some time, with little success; samples sent to India's Mineral & Metals Trading Corporation earlier this year were rejected as unsuitable for Indian fertiliser manufacturers. A proposal has been made for a similar phosphate fertiliser project in Tunisia.

The UAE has also been approached, as has Bahrain. Minister of State for Fertilisers R. Prabhu said in November that Abu Dhabi has offered to set up a 1,000-tonne-a-day gas-based ammonia plant in joint venture with India's Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers. FACT

has drawn up a technical feasibility report for the project, envisaging investment of Rs2,000 million (\$154 million).

In Dubai, the Jebel Ali sulphuric and phosphoric acid project is moving ahead, with West Germany's Lurgi awarded a contract for detailed design engineering, procurement and construction supervision of the \$71 million plant.

Gujarat Narmada Fertiliser Corporation has taken a 20 per cent equity stake in the venture. Emirates Narmada Industries, which is being remitted in the form of \$4 million worth of technical equipment. India will take the output in a 10-year buy-back arrangement expected to begin in mid-1990.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)			LONDON (Beta Stocks)		
NAME	LAST	073/0	NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
ABBEE LFE	240/0	180/0	A.B. ELECT	293/0	290/0
ALD LYONS	327/6	276/0	APV PLC	114/0	115/0
AMSTRAD	112/4	328/0	ARROWSON	104/0	105/0
ARGILL GP	190/6	453/0	AAH HDLG	297/0	297/0
ASDA MFI	166/0		ACATOSMHT	426/0	423/0
A B FOODS	298/0		ADDISON G	90/0	90/0
BAA PI	95/0		ADJUST GP	265/0	266/0
BTR	268/0		ALISA	134/0	137/0
BAT INDS	420/0		ALEX MKW	143/0	150/0
BARCLAYS	437/0		ALLIANCE	721/0	725/0
BASS	795/0		ALLD COLL	104/0	104/0
BEAZER	162/0		ALLD PLAN	41/0	41/0
BEECHAMS	456/0		AMARI PLC	130/0	131/0
BET ORD	218/0		AMEC PLC	281/0	286/0
BICC PLC	314/0		AMER TRUS	107/0	108/0
BLUE ARROW	90/0		AMERSHAM	389/0	393/0
BLUE CIRC	322/0		ANGLIA TV	290/0	293/0
BUC GP	365/0		ANSPACHER	72/0	71/0
BOOTS CO	233/0		U-APP HOL	320/0	320/0
BPB INDS	242/0		APLEYARD	298/0	300/0
BR COMM	290/0		APRICOT	86/0	86/0
BR AIRWAY	142/4		ARMSTRONG	137/0	140/0
BR AEROSP	322/0		ANGLO O'S	343/0	345/0
BR GAS PP	125/0		AUSCUTLUM	260/0	265/0
B.P.NEW	243/0		ASHLEY L	113/0	114/0
BRITOL	390/0		AUTO SEC	217/0	216/0
BR TEL COM	169/0		REUTERS	239/0	242/0
BURNHAM OL	418/0		AVON RUBB	593/0	595/0
BURTON	220/0		BBA GP	138/0	140/0
CABLEWIR	325/2		BSE INTL	61/0	62/0
CADBURYS	250/0		BAILL JAP	367/0	366/0
COMATS VTY	260/0		BANKER INT	59/0	60/0
COIN UNIC	348/0		BK OF SCO	488/0	489/0
COMS GOLD	938/0		BARKER DO	164/0	165/0
COOKSON	488/0		BART DEV	165/0	168/0
COURTAULD	337/0		B.WENMILL	137/0	140/0
DALGETY	250/0		BEJAM GP	179/0	181/0
DEE CP	172/0		BELHAVEN	37/0	37/0
DIXONS	205/0		BELLWAY	175/0	175/0
ENG CHINA	395/0		BENROSE	179/0	181/0
ENTER OIL	265/0		BENLOK HD	42/0	42/4
FERRANTI	80/4		BENNETT	34/0	34/0
FISONS	150/0		BENTALLS	137/0	138/0
GEN ACCID	835/0		BERISFORD	274/0	276/0
GEN ELEC	160/0		BERKELEY	236/0	235/0
GLAXO	970/0		BLACK LE 2	219/0	219/0
GRANDADA	297/0		BODDINGTO	130/0	131/0
GLOBE	124/0		BOOKER PL	356/0	360/0
GRAND MET	412/0		BORTHWICK	37/0	39/0
GUS A	068/0		BOUTHORPE	155/0	152/0
GUINNESS A	285/0		BRAMMER	215/0	213/0
IMPERSON A	450/0		BRENT WCR	270/0	271/0
HANSON	126/0		BREITMAN	143/0	143/0
HAKER SID	425/0		BRITANNIA	875/0	870/0
HAMLEY	90/0		BR ASSETS	59/0	60/0
HILLSDOWN	267/0		BR LND CO	243/0	244/0
			BR VITA	376/0	377/0

World Indices				
INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 30 IND	1332.0	1312.4	1310.7	1253.9
FT 500 SHR	0	916.6	897.2	1323.8
FT ALL SHR	0	832.18	831.08	835.48
FT GOV SEC	0	87.94	88.37	85.55
FT GOLD MN	0	336.0	327.3	288.9
FT MINES F	0	447.97	426.19	453.22
FT OIL	0	1612.8	1633.8	2284.4
FT MLD DLR	113.54	112.43	112.19	136.44
FT MLD STG	91.66	90.69	90.87	124.45
FT MLD LDC	100.47	99.66	99.86	130.67

London Stock Market Report

UK SHARES FIRM BUT BELOW HIGHS IN QUIET LATE TRADE
LONDON, DEC 15 - STOCK PRICES CONTINUED FIRM, BUT WERE BELOW THEIR HIGHEST LEVELS AS THE MARKET SEEMED TO IGNORE FURTHER EARLY GAINS ON WALL STREET TODAY, DEALERS SAID.

VOLUME REMAINED LOW BUT OPERATORS REPORTED SOME PICK-UP, WITH 522 MLN SHARES TRADED BY 1500 GMT. NEW BP SHARES CONTRIBUTED OVER 125 MLN OF THIS TOTAL AND DEALERS SAID THE KUMAT INVESTMENT OFFICE WAS PROBABLY AGAIN ACTIVE IN THE MARKET AFTER INCREASING ITS BP STAKE TO 13.07 PCT YESTERDAY.

AT 1530 GMT THE FTSE 100 INDEX WAS 15.3 POINTS HIGHER AT 1,667.9, AFTER A HIGH ON THE DAY OF 1,681.2 AT MID-MORNING FOLLOWING ENCOURAGEMENT FROM YESTERDAY'S LARGE GAIN IN NEW YORK.

ANALYSTS SAY THE KIO NOW HOLDS BY FAR THE LARGEST SINGLE STAKE IN BP, BUT MIKE UNSWORTH, OIL ANALYST AT SMITH NEW COURT, SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT KIO WOULD RAISE ITS STAKE ABOVE 15 PCT. BOTH OLD AND NEW BP SHARES WERE UNCHANGED AT 244 AND 71-1/2PCT RESPECTIVELY.

STORES GROUP BURTON WAS AMONG THE MOST ACTIVE STOCKS TRADED, WITH OVER NINE MLN CHANGING HANDS. DEALERS SAID ACQUISITION OF THE U.K. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE MAY INVESTIGATE ITS REMOVAL OF DEBENTURES LAST YEAR HAD RESURFACED. BURTON SHARES WERE 3P LOWER AT 219 AFTER 228. OTHER STORES HAD MARKS AND SPENCER UP 1P AT 182 AND WOOLWORTH 2P HIGHER AT 255.

London Gold

LONDON, DEC 15 - GOLD BULLION CLOSED 10.75 DLRS LOWER AT 489.00/489.50 DLRS AN OUNCE, WEAKENED BY A FIRMER DOLLAR AND EASIER OIL PRICES, DEALERS SAID.

THE DECLINE WAS ALSO PARTLY ATTRIBUTED TO A TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO MONDAY'S 4-3/4 YEAR HIGH. DEALERS SAID THERE WAS REASONABLE SUPPORT BETWEEN 484 AND 485.

BUSINESS WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT AND THE FALL WAS MORE DUE TO A LACK OF FOLLOWTHROUGH BUYING INTEREST THAN ANY LARGE SCALE SELLING. ACTIVITY WAS PRIMARILY CONFINED TO PROFESSIONALS. GOLD HAD OPENED LOWER AT 496.00/496.50 AND DECLINED FURTHER TO A MORNING FIX OF 493.70 AND AFTERNOON SETTING OF 492.50.

London Money Market

LONDON, DEC 15 - U.K. MONEY RATES ENDED AS MUCH AS 1/8 POINT HIGHER AFTER A FAIRLY ACTIVE SESSION FEATURED BY STRONG DEMAND FOR FUNDS IN THE EUROSTERLING MARKET.

DEMAND CAME FROM ARBITRAGE ACTIVITY, PROBABLY AGAINST THE DOLLAR, AS WELL AS FROM YEAR-END BOOKSQUARING, DEALERS SAID. A FALL IN OIL PRICES, ON SPECULATION THE OPEC PRODUCTION AGREEMENT REACHED LAST NIGHT WOULD NOT STICK, PUSHED STERLING DOWN BELOW 2.99 MARKS AND MADE THE PROSPECT OF A NEAR-TERM CUT IN BASE RATES LESS LIKELY.

DEALERS HAVE BECOME LESS BULLISH ON THIS SCORE OVER THE LAST WEEK OR SO THOUGH SHORT-TERM RATES REMAIN RELATIVELY SOFT.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPG
DLR	1.8350/60	1.6270/80	5.125/75	NOON
STG	1.8340/50	2.9855/90	10.1220/1365	NOON
DMK	1.6242/6322	2.981/995	29.415/575	FIX
FFR	5.125/26	10.1205/1385	338.7/339.36	FIX
SFR	1.3230/3240	2.4251/4282	81.25/36	23.96/99
HFL	1.8320	3.3615	112.55	33.195
ECU	1.26779	0.690518	2.06333	6.99693
SDR	1.38825	0.752561	2.25361	7.64787
YEN	127.20/30	233.25/55		CLSE
SDR	14/12/1987	OTHERS	15/12/1987	NOON

NEW YORK			NEW YORK		
NAME	OPEN	CLOSE	NAME	OPEN	CLOSE
A BSCH COM	32/3	32/1	GEN MILLS	45/7	45/7
ATLANTIC R	65/3	65/3	GENL MOTOR	60/4	60/3
AAR CORP	16/5	16/6	GENL SIGNAL	40/2	40/1
AETNA LIFE	45/2	45/1	GENCORP	63/1	62/5
ALASKA AIR	14/2	13/6	GENRAD INC	9/4	9/4
ALCO STAND	19/2	19/1	GEO INTL	4/1	4/1
AM CAP SEC	23/7	23/7	GEORGI-PAC	33/6	33/7
AMER CYANA	40/6	41/0	GERRR SCIE	15/7	15/6
AM FAMILY	14/4	14/4	GILLET	29/6	30/0
AM HOM PRO	70/0	68/5	GLOBAL MAR	1/4	1/4
AM STANDARD	34/4	34/6	GOLDEN NUG	10/4	10/4
AM STORES	47/6	48/0	GOODRICH	35/2	35/0
AMER T T	28/3	28/3	GOODYEAR	55/0	55/1
AMOCO CP	64/5	64/6	GOULD INC	11/0	10/7
AMP INC	46/7	46/5	GRACE WR	23/0	22/3
AMPC PITT	12/4	12/4	GRANGER	55/0	54/6
AMR CORP	32/1	31/1	GREYHOUND	24/3	24/2
AMR GEN CO	28/6	29/0	GRIER	8/4	8/4
AMRO HESS	24/0	24/1	GULF RES-C	19/4	19/4
ANDRA HESS	10/4	10/4	GULF-WESTN	69/3	69/3
APACHE CP	7/2	7/3	HALLIBURTO	24/0	24/0
APACHE PET	3/4	3/4	HALLWOOD	14/3	14/0
ARCO INC	11/1	11/0	HALLMOR MIN	18/2	18/1
ASARCO INC	27/2	27/0	HARRIS CP	25/5	25/5
ASHLAND OIL	57/0	56/3	HARTHARK	19/2	19/1
ATLS CORP	35/6	36/0	HECLA MIN	14/6	14/6
AVERT INT	18/4	18/2	HELEMAN BR	39/5	39/7
AVNET INC	24/4	24/6	HEINZ HJ	39/7	40/0
AVON PRODS	24/3	24/7	HEL CURTIS	25/0	24/7
BELL ATLAN	66/4	66/4	HELM-PAYNE	18/1	18/2
BELL CAN	28/0	28/0	HERCULES	45/5	45/2
BELL-HOW	60/4	60/6	HESSTON	0	3/7
BEST STEEL	17/2	17/1	HEUL-PACK	54/4	54/3
BEVERLY	7/4	7/5	HENCKEL CP	34/6	34/4
BK BOSTON	21/0	20/2	HILLBENBRO	24/1	24/1
BK BOSTN-A	0	4/7/4	HILTN HTLS	69/4	69/6
BK N-YORK	26/1	26/1	HITACHI	91/6	91/6
BK TR-NY	27/4	27/4	HOMESTAKE	17/5	17/7
BANKAMER	7/1	7/2	HNDY-HARIN	16/4	16/5
BANKAM SPEC	6/4	6/5	HOLIDAY C	20/4	20/3
BOEING	35/7	35/6	HOMER DEPOT	18/0	18/0
BOISE CASC	65/2	64/3	HOMER FED S	19/4	19/4
BORDEN	49/0	47/3	HONDA MOTOR	100/1	100/1
BORG-WARNR	0	45/5	HONEYWELL	55/2	55/2
BOMATEX	29/0	28/5	HOUGHTON MI	22/1	22/2
BR TELECOM	39/0	39/2	HOUSTON IN	30/1	30/1
BRIGGS-STR	24/2	24/2	HUGHES SUP	24/3	24/2
BRYST-MYER	42/5	42/0	HUMANA INC	19/0	18/5
BRUNSWICK	15/2	15/0	HUTTON EF	28/1	28/1
BURNDY CP	10/2	10/1	IBM	115/3	115/1
C 3 INC	9/2	9/2	IC INDUST	30/2	30/2
CABOT CORP	28/6	28/4	ICN PHARM	6/4	6/3
CACI CORP	20/2	19/5	ILL PUR CO	23/5	23/5
CALIF FRI	19/4	19/2	INDO LTD	20/0	19/7
CAS NAT GE	13/4	13/4	INGERSOLL-R	34/0	33/5
CAST-COOKIE	16/6	16/6	INTL MINER	44/7	44/6
CATERPILLAR	60/4	60/0	J WALTER	59/6	59/6
CBT INC	17/4	17/4	JOHNSON-JMS	79/3	79/3
CBS	150/2	149/5	K HART CP	28/6	28/4
CENTEL CP	34/4	34/1	KAISER ALM	10/0	10/0
CENTRO DAT	2/1	2/1	KELLOGG	53/0	53/0
CHAMP INTL	33/4	33/1	KERR-MCGEE	33/4	33/6
CHAMP SPTA	11/4	11/0	KEYSTONE	15/4	15/3
CHARTER CO	3/5	3/6	KIDDE INC	0	63/0
CHASE MANH	22/1	22/2	KIMB-CLARK	49/5	49/4
CHEMICO NY	31/1	31/2	KLN R D AI	15/0	14/6
CHEVRON	38/4	38/6	KRAFT INC	49/4	50/1
CITY GROUP	22/2	22/2	KROGER CP	24/5	24/3
CLARK EQUI	25/3	25/0	LEAR PETRL	1/5	1/5
CLOREX	28/0	27/7	LEHMAN	11/2	11/2
CORP RES	1/5	1/5	LENNAR	14/6	14/7
CID PACIFIC	55/6	55/6	LILLY ELI	71/6	71/0
COACHMEN	7/1	7/2	LINCOLN NA	39/2	39/4
COCA COLA	39/6	40/0	LITTON IND	71/0	70/6
COLECO	4/1	4/2	LOCKHEED	35/6	35/3
COLEMAN INC	30/4	30/2	LOECITE CP	23/0	22/6
COLGATE	37/2	37/2	LOEWS CORP	69/4	69/0
COLT INDS	9/0	8/7	LOW-METTEL	17/4	17/4
COLLINS & C	40/6	41/0	LOWE STAR	20/5	20/3
COM EDIS	29/2	29/2	LOWES	17/0	17/1
CONAGRA	24/1	24/2	MGT ASS.	2/5	2/5
CONS ED-NY	42/6	43/0	MARTETTA	39/4	39/4
CONTINENTAL	38/2	38/2	MA COM INC	8/5	8/5
CONTEL ILLN	*02	*02	MCDONALD	53/1	53/0
CONTEL CP	28/0	28/0	MCDONNELL	57/7	57/5
CONTR DATA	20/1	20/0	MCGRAN-HIL	48/6	48/6
COOPER T-R	20/1	20/0	MCDRAW	32/1	32/1
COOPER CO	8/1	8/2	MERCK - CO	161/7	160/2
CORNING GL	52/0	50/0	MEREDITH	26/6	26/1
CRANE	20/6	20/3	MERRILL LY	20/4	20/2
CRAY RES	71/6	70/0	MESA OFFSH	1/1	1/1
CULLINER	5/3	5/3	MOBIL OIL	37/4	38/0
DANIEL IND	6/0	5/7	MONMANT DAT	0	0
DATA GEN	21/7	21/6	MONSANTO	78/0	76/7
DATAPoint	4/5	4/4	MORGAN JP	31/0	31/7
DAYTON HD	27/3	27/2	MORT THIO	41/3	41/2
DIG EQUIP	127/4	126/7	MOTOROLA	48/7	48/5
DEERE CO	37/2	36/2	MURSH-MCLEN	45/1	45/1
DELTA AIR	37/2	35/5	MURPHY OIL	22/2	22/1
DIAMOND SH	8/0	8/0	NAT DISTIL	70/0	67/4
DISNEY W	58/1	57/5	NAVSTAR	4/2	4/1
DOVER CORP	59/6	59/0	NCR CORP	63/0	62/6
DOW CHEM	87/3	86/4			
DOW JONES	31/1	31/3			

Gold and oil ease

Dollar edges down to record lows

LONDON, Dec 15, (Reuters): The dollar edged down to touch historic lows for the fourth straight trading today, despite good news from the oil market — prices fell after Opec agreed to extend its \$18 a barrel reference price.

Dealers — some of who had worried that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries might agree to raise prices or cut production — say the agreement should ease investors' worries about inflation. Many doubt the accord will do much to buoy oil.

Gold eased in response. After rising above \$500 an ounce yesterday, for the first time since February, 1983, bullion fell \$11 to trade around \$489 at close in London.

Lows
It did little for the dollar, which hit record quoted lows of 126.75 Japanese yen and 1.3170 Swiss francs. After hitting a record quoted low of 1.6215 West German marks in New York yesterday, the dollar steadied in London at just below 1.63 marks.

"It looks as if the only way to go is down — 1.60 (marks) by the

end of the year is entirely possible," a Frankfurt dealer said.

Investors remained concerned that the persistently high US trade deficit will keep forcing the dollar down. The United States reported a record \$17.63 billion October trade deficit on Thursday, and the dollar has hit record lows every trading day since then.

Worries

That worries most dealers even more than the possibility inflation could be rekindled.

And few see that as a risk now, as oil prices slipped in response to the Opec pact.

Brent crude oil from the North Sea was down about 50 cents a barrel to trade around \$16.45 by mid-afternoon.

News that Opec agreed to extend its \$18 a barrel price eased some investors' worries about inflation. Many buy gold as an inflation hedge as well as when the dollar is weak.

But, despite easier gold prices and despite good news on inflation from the Opec agreement, many traders saw the dollar sliding. Oil prices were steady, with

Brent crude from the North Sea trading around \$17 a barrel. Some oil traders said they were sceptical over Opec's ability to buoy the market.

Gloom

Japanese dealers were especially gloom about the dollar. "We cannot see the dollar's immediate floor for now," a senior Japanese dealer said in Tokyo. The gloom spread to the Nikkei index slipped 79.55 points, or 0.35 per cent, to 22,846.73.

"People are scared now that the dollar is trading below 127 yen," one Tokyo share dealer said.

In Europe — though big companies, like those in Japan, risk losing export business if the dollar is weak — share prices edged higher.

High

London's benchmark FTSE 100-share index rose 1.7 per cent, or 28.6 points, to a morning high of 1,681.2. Amsterdam's CBS all-share index rose 0.5 points to open at 63.3 while in Zurich, the all-share Swiss index opened 6.2 points higher at 754.8. Milan and

Paris shares also firmed.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 40 points, or nearly two per cent, to 2,080.62. Singapore shares rose 1.29 per cent.

"The markets are tired of the dollar fall, they tend to ignore it and go all by themselves," a Paris dealer said.

But in Frankfurt, where the Boersen-Zeitung index rose 1.7 per cent, or 4.74 points to 276.24, one dealer said the gains were due to the absence of big investors, the financial institutions.

Boosted

A handful of small buy orders boosted share prices, he said, adding, "the institutions have reconciled themselves to marking down their books."

The same lack of interest hit the price of gold.

Yesterday's surge through the magic \$500 barrier was purely because of the dollar," a Zurich gold dealer said. "But there is simply no fresh buying interest so people are trying to protect their profits."

Although the dollar's slide since 1983 means gold is nowhere near as expensive in terms of marks, yen or Swiss francs,

bullion is typically seen as a haven when the dollar is weak.

"There are an ample number of people who wanted to sell the dollar and were prepared to react to any negative news for the currency," one Tokyo currency dealer said.

Accord

The negative news in Japan today was a Jiji news agency report quoting David Meiselman, an economics professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, saying that US Treasury Secretary James Baker was opposed to continuing last February's Louvre accord to stabilise the dollar.

The report identified Meiselman a friend of Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers. The dollar fell so sharply that the Bank of Japan stepped in, buying an estimated \$700 million to buoy its value.

But, said a senior dealer at a Japanese bank, "intervention is counter-productive in this extremely bearish climate... it just gives participants who are dying to sell the dollar a chance to do so."

Short-term
KD deposits
firm in
thin trade

SHORT-term Kuwaiti dinar deposits firmed in thin trade yesterday but borrowing demand for fixed period funds remained slack ahead of the turn of the year, dealers said.

They said a mid-month reporting date to the Central Bank sparked some demand for overnight funds, which traded at six per cent after quotes of one, 3/4 on Monday.

Tomorrow-next and spot-next funds were bid at three per cent but there were no offers. One-month rose to 4-1/4, 3-3/4 per cent from 3-3/4, 1/4 per cent.

Three-months rose to 5-5/8, 3/8 per cent from five, 4-1/2, after trading at five per cent then 5-1/2 per cent. Six-months edged up 1/8 point to 5-7/8, 3/8 per cent while nine-months to one-year were steady at six, 5-1/2 per cent.

Firmer
The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate firmer to 0.27288/22 to the dollar from 0.27317/51. The spot dinar was quoted at 0.27330/40.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal inter-bank deposits eased further in a very dull and liquid market yesterday, with some rates hitting record lows.

Dealers said they thought the decline, which began a month ago, had bottomed out because a steady influx of government payments ahead of the turn of the year was ending.

A new Saudi budget announcement expected in two weeks' time would also probably galvanise traders into action, they added.

Positions

Most banks have already squared positions for their end-of-year accounts and are reluctant to take out new ones amid uncertainty over the future direction of US interest rates.

Riyal deposits often closely track dollar interest rates.

One-month deposits fell to four, 3-3/4 per cent from 4-1/4, four on Monday, their lowest levels this year.

Three-months declined to 5-3/8, 1/8 per cent from 5-3/4, 1/2 while six months eased to 6-3/8, 1/8 per cent. One-year was little changed at 7-1/16, 6-15/16 per cent.

But short-term funds were relatively steady, with overnight trading at four, three per cent and spot-next and tomorrow-next both quoted at three, two per cent.

The spot riyal was little changed at 3.7497/502 to the dollar.

Plastic
banknote
planned

SYDNEY, Dec 15, (Reuters): Australia will issue a 10 dollar (\$7) plastic banknote next year that changes colour as one looks at it, the Reserve Bank said.

The note, commemorating 200 years of White Settlement in Australia, will contain an optically variable device (OVD). This anti-counterfeiting technology causes the note's colour to vary as the viewing angle changes.

The commemorative note will feature an Aboriginal design on one side and a drawing of one of the first fleet convict ships, which brought the first settlers, on the other.

Lebanese
pound strengthens

BEIRUT, Dec 15, (Reuters): The Lebanese pound closed at 465.00/467.00 against the dollar today compared to the previous 478.00/480.00, the Central Bank said.

Opec maintains \$18 oil price

(Continued from Page 1)

yesterday. It later recovered but then eased again to \$16.50 today.

Many traders and analysts say prices may fall further in the months ahead if Opec members start offering price discounts or exceed production ceilings, as has happened before.

Opec, in fact, is currently pumping more than 18 million bpd, well above expected demand for the first quarter of 1988.

And experts both inside and outside Opec worry that Iraq, which refused to sign because its demand for quota parity with Gulf war foe Iran was not met, will add to a glut by pumping to capacity of nearly three million bpd.

Honour

One minister said Iraq quietly indicated it might rein in output by around 500,000 bpd to defend the \$18 price but said its allies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait still intended to lend it 200,000 bpd



Sheikh Ali Khalifa

each in war relief crude.

This means even more crude floating around the world looking for buyers in a glutted market.

Kuwait's Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said that in the difficult times ahead with pressure both on prices and production volume, the introduction of an audit agreement is seen an important measure of checking each member's adherence to the \$18 per barrel (dlsr/bbl) reference price and the new 15.06 million barrels per day (mbpd) ceiling agreements for 12 Opec members.

Suggestions

Kuwait and other Opec members had joined in the suggestion to have a Dutch firm again undertake the auditing, but this time with a different approach: checks would be made simultaneously in all 13 Opec member countries and, if possible, without much of prior warning, he said.

Kuwait's strategy, Sheikh Ali told the newsmen, is based on 90 billion barrels oil reserve to produce in the next 200 years. Significant investments are to help improve returns as well as to get a better feeling of the market. This is why Kuwait gets into transport, refining and marketing. The 'BP' acquisition is to lead to further activity.

"Daily fluctuation are not our concern," the Kuwaiti Oil Minister said, discussing oil prices. The effect of the US dollar is seen differently in Opec countries

because "it should be remembered that the oil industry is a dollar-based industry, as are such competitors as, for example, the coal industry."

Analysts, meanwhile, note that the UAE has consistently produced well over its quota.

Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteibi, under fire from other ministers, said that the UAE would honour its 948,000 bpd share. But many delegates and analysts remained sceptical.

Delegates said the group appeared to have lost much of the political unity which helped it regain dominance of the oil market for several months after last year's price crash.

Crude fell from \$30 to \$9 when quotas were disregarded. The slide was only reversed when Opec rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran joined together to persuade all member states except Iraq to accept new, lower quotas.

Indebted Third World states such as Nigeria and Venezuela, angry at how Gulf politics soured the talks, resisted the idea that Iraq be drawn into the pact with a bigger quota.

One minister was reported to have said to the Gulf bloc: "You people do not realise that your overproduction is making life a misery for millions of people in the Third World."

Declare

He was arguing that if Opec could cut output and raise prices, the poorer countries in the bloc would get cash they need to develop their indebted economies.

"Maybe Ecuador should declare war on Venezuela so it can get a bigger quota," one non-Gulf delegate said in reference to the Gulf war rivalry. He said that several members were fed up with overproduction by Gulf states.

"The tragedy of this conference is that decisions were based on politics rather than economic need," said a senior delegate.

"Because everyone wanted to make a political point, no firm measures were taken to match production to demand. In order to compromise, they achieved nothing," he added.

Several analysts and Opec delegates predicted that the market would be so destabilised that the group would be forced to meet before its next scheduled meeting in June.

Export earnings

JAKARTA, Dec 15, (Opecna): During the 1986-87 fiscal year ending in March, Pertamina, the Indonesian state oil company, recorded over \$467 million in export earnings.

According to Kusmadi Amin Endin, Pertamina public affairs director, the oil exports during the period amounted to more than 17 million barrels.

He said exports by foreign companies operating under production-sharing deals and working contracts reached a value of more than \$4.20 billion with a total volume of over 329 million barrels.

US foreign trade deficit hits record

WASHINGTON, Dec 15, (AP): The deficit in the broadest measure of US foreign trade swelled to a record \$43.4 billion for July through September this year, pushing the country deeper into shock as the world's largest debtor nation.

The Commerce Department said today the imbalance in the nation's current account rose 5.3 per cent from the \$41.2-billion imbalance recorded from April through June, which had been the previous record.

The current account is considered the most important trade figure because it measures not only trade in merchandise but also trade in services, primarily investment flows between countries.

Fortunes

In a sign of how the country's international fortunes have dwindled, the government reported that the country paid out more to foreigners on their US holdings than Americans earned

on their overseas investments. While it was only a small imbalance of \$600-million, it marked the first time that American investments had failed to be in surplus in 29 years.

Analysts said this trend will worsen in succeeding quarters as the United States has to pay more and more to service the growing tide of foreign investments in this country.

While the United States has run a deficit in merchandise trade for 15 of the past 16 years, the current account was in surplus as recently as 1981 as Americans' earnings on overseas investments were enough to offset the merchandise deficits.

But a flood of foreign goods has wiped out the cushion once provided by investment earnings. This situation has made the United States the world's largest debtor country as Americans have banded over billions of dollars to foreigners in exchange for imported goods.

Being a net debtor means that foreigners now own more in US investments than Americans hold in foreign investments. The United States was last a net debtor nation in 1914. It regained that status in 1985 with a foreign debt of \$111.9 billion. That debt grew to 263.6 billion at the end of 1986.

Surplus

Even with that load of foreign debt, the services category of the current account had been recording small surpluses each quarter because the return on Americans' older overseas investments was higher than the return foreigners were getting on their US investments.

But that situation reversed in the July-September quarter going from a surplus of \$1.5 billion in the second quarter to a deficit of 600 million.

Adding to that deficit, the deficit in merchandise trade rose a slight 0.5 per cent to \$39.6 billion as a \$5.2-billion rise in

exports was offset by a 5.4 billion increase in imports.

In addition, the category which includes US foreign aid payments to other countries totalled \$2.9 billion in the third quarter, down from 3.1 billion in the second quarter.

The current account deficit for all of 1986 totalled a record of \$141.4 billion. Through the first nine months of this year, the current account deficit totals \$121.4 billion, well on the way to a new record approaching \$165 billion.

The government reported last Thursday that the deficit in just merchandise trade in October, the first month in the final quarter, soared to a record \$17.6 billion.

The current account deficits so far this year indicate the country's foreign debt has now risen over \$380 billion, putting the United States far ahead of Brazil, the previous debt leader with a foreign debt totalling \$108 billion.

Negotiators see hurdles in deficit cutting

WASHINGTON, Dec 15, (AP): Lawmakers are trying to complete a massive spending bill and an accompanying deficit-cutting measure by week's end, but many concede it will be hard for them to finish before the government's temporary financing expires on Thursday.

Two separate groups of House-Senate negotiators met yesterday to begin thrashing out their differences on the pair of measures: an enormous spending bill for the government's fiscal 1988 operations, and legislation that raises taxes, reduces some federal benefits and sells several government assets.

Trying

The bargainers are trying to agree on a combination of revenues and spending cuts that will meet the terms of the budget accord the White House and congressional leaders reached Nov 20. That agreement calls for this

year's deficit to be reduced from previous estimates by at least \$30 billion.

Starting at the lawmakers are two deadlines.

Beginning Thursday, the temporary spending bill that has kept government agencies functioning expires. Barring an unexpected quick completion of work on the permanent version of that bill — which will contain close to \$600 billion in spending — a short-term extension will be needed.

Also upcoming is the Christmas recess, which congressional leaders would like to begin this weekend. To do so, an unusual Saturday session might be necessary.

Increases

Yesterday, tax bargainers agreed on several revenue increases that are identical in both the Senate and House bills. House tax-writers also agreed to

drop hundreds of provisions that would not reduce the deficit.

The spending bill combines the 13 annual appropriations bills for the 1988 fiscal year. As usual, none of them had been enacted by the time the fiscal year began Oct 1.

Negotiators on the spending bill, who reached no agreements yesterday had to decide how to carve from the measure \$5 billion in savings from military programmes and \$2.6 billion from domestic spending.

But they also face these disputes:

— The Senate version of the measure would grant the Nicaraguan Contras \$9 million in non-military aid for their fight against the leftist Sandinista government, plus assistance to distribute the supplies. The House refused to include such aid in its bill, and President Ronald Reagan has threatened to

veto the measure if the rebels are not helped. Yesterday, House Speaker Jim Wright, an opposition Democrat, did not rule out non-military aid if it was tied to progress in regional peace talks.

Fairness

— The House Bill would etch into law the fairness doctrine, which required broadcasters to air opposing viewpoints on controversial issues until the Federal Communications Commission stopped enforcing it this year. The Senate stripped similar language from its legislation, and the president has already vetoed a separate fairness doctrine bill this year.

— The Senate version contains language allowing an administration request to sell \$7 million worth of shoulder-fired Stinger missiles to Bahrain, as long as the Gulf nation makes sure terrorists cannot capture the anti-aircraft weapons.



A Tokyo Stock Exchange board shows an up-to-date dollar rate over money brokers as the dollar plunged to a post-war record low against the yen yesterday. (Reuters radiophoto)

Cheaper oil should help
industry, cut inflation

VIENNA, Dec 15, (Reuters):

Cheaper oil is in prospect after Opec talks here yielded only a makeshift 1988 price-and-output agreement, and that may benefit a global economy seen in danger of a recession since the crash on financial markets.

Economists said a weaker oil price would promise lower fuel bills for industry, less risk of inflation and at least some help in correcting America's deficits — although the motorist is not likely to see prices slashed at the petrol pump.

Pledged
The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries pledged to continue to operate production cuts in 1988 with the stated goal of maintaining a reference price of \$18 a barrel.

But traders noted that Iraq was not party to the agreement. They were not impressed, predicting no early end to Opec overproduction. Some analysts say \$15 oil on the "spot" or free market within a few weeks.

"Lower oil prices will help take the steam out of US inflation and be positive for easing the trade

deficit," said Sanford Marghoshes of Shearson Lehman in New York.

Cheaper foreign oil might also give the US administration a chance to tax petrol and help narrow the other deficit: being run by the United States, that on its federal budget.

But poorer, debt-burdened Opec members will see revenues cut and their problems will be exacerbated by the present decline in the value of the dollar, in which the barrel is priced.

Richer Gulf members of Opec may scale down investment plans.

While industrial nations will pay less to run their factories and cars, and cheap oil will boost chemicals companies and airlines, it is also likely to pinch the oil companies and oil-related industries.

Declining oil prices have a trickle-down effect on the rate of exploration, which usually slows when prices are weak.

Motorists will not find that pump prices drop quickly — "the typical person at the gasoline pump would initially have dif-

ficulty noticing the dip," said Marghoshes.

Bryan Jacoboski of Paine Webber, another US analyst who was in Vienna, said: "Every \$2 off the oil price roughly translates into a nickel (five cents a gallon) at the pump."

Jacoboski said the fall might be small to the car driver but was very broad-based as US motorists used 2.6 billion barrels of oil a year. "The fall might allow the US to increase revenue through petrol tax," he said.

Huge US budget and trade deficits are blamed for strains on the world economy and the weak dollar.

A petrol tax would be one way to trim the budget deficit and savings on imports of some 2.1 billion barrels of oil a year — a third of US consumption — would shave the trade deficit.

Analysts said Japan's economy, which imports far more oil than the United States, will get a big boost. If that means Japan buys more goods from the United States and other nations, that could help keep the global economy out of recession.

BP to begin higher
Britoil offer

LONDON, Dec 15, (AP): British

Petroleum Co. PLC said yesterday it would begin buying shares tomorrow under its previously announced, sweetened offer to increase its 14.9 per cent stake in Britoil PLC to 29.9 per cent.

Rival bidder Atlantic Richfield Co., which intends to purchase 49.9 per cent of Britoil, said it would consider attempting to buy all of Britoil if BP makes such a move.

BP also said that the Kuwaiti government, through its London-based Kuwait Investment Office, has boosted its stake in BP to 13.07 per cent from the 11.52 per cent announced last week.

The office has been buying BP's partly paid shares aggressively for the past month, saying

it views them as a good long-term investment. The shares were issued when the government recently sold off its remaining 31.5 per cent stake in BP.

The partly paid shares were unchanged at 72 pence (\$1.30) each in early afternoon trading on the London Stock Exchange. BP was down 4 pence (7.2 cents) at 244 pence (\$4.39). Britoil shares were quoted at 371 pence (\$6.69), up 19 pence (34 cents).

BP said that once its 300-pence-a-share (\$5.40) partial offer for Britoil expires tomorrow, it intends, as announced on Friday, to make a new offer or buy Britoil shares at a price above 350 pence each (\$6.30) on the open market until it has acquired 29.9 per cent of the company.

Bond
prices
rise

NEW YORK, Dec 15, (AP): Bond prices were driven higher yesterday in dull activity as investors focused on plunging oil prices.

The treasury's Bellwether 30-year issue was up 29-32 point, or nearly \$9 for every \$1,000 in face value. Its yield fell to 9.37 per cent from 9.45 per cent late Friday.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the price for January delivery of West Texas Intermediate crude oil fell 87 cents a barrel to \$17.44.

Analysts said the Opec agreement would actually do little or nothing to tighten oil supplies and keep prices steady. "People have sort of seized on the oil-price drop," said Robert Brusca, chief economist and senior vice president of fixed income at Nikko Securities Co. International Inc.

Declining oil prices tend to be a harbinger of lower inflation, and bond traders believe lower inflation portends lower interest rates and higher bond prices. Interest rates and bond prices move in opposite directions.

The drop in oil prices "is good for bonds — it takes some of the inflation sting out of the market," Brusca said.

The dollar continued to slip against most major world currencies, but the losses were slight, in quiet, cautious trading.

\$10m Saudi
aid to Lebanon

RIYADH, Dec 15, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia is giving people in Lebanon \$10 million to help them through their difficult economic situation, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said yesterday.

It quoted Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer as saying King Fahd ordered the money to be distributed by special committees "to guarantee just distribution among all Lebanese without exception."

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 15.12.87			
B. No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel No.
3	Saefer	Algh Barber	4843988
5	Wonsbon	Marafi Intl.	2465645
9	Barge Maryam	Gulf Star	4845501
	Tug Abu Samir	Gulf Star	4845501
13	Norasia Arabia	Emad	4841807
FH.1	Golden Haven	M. Bahar	2433881
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel No.
15/12	Barce Wim Brown	Al Qutub	4747815
15/12	Tug Gulf Express	"	"
15/12	Himeshima Maru	Algh Barber	4843988
16/12	Ibn Alathar	KSA	4843150
16/12	Hual Carmencia	A Bahar	2459891
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel No.
3	Amer Asha	Al Qutub	4747815
3	Uco-XVII	Sager Shaheen	2432692
15	Estecolpper	Kamal Shpg	2425437
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel No.
14/12	Kefalonina Hope	Algh Barber	4843988
18/12	Rhein Express	A Bahar	2459891

BANGLADESH

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT
ON THE OCCASION OF VICTORY DAY

THE Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, recently called upon the international community to give a serious thought to the resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 1985 on long term and effective solution of the problems caused by natural disasters in Bangladesh.

Addressing the 42nd session of the General Assembly the Foreign Minister referred to the successive devastating floods that had struck Bangladesh recently claiming many human lives and rendering hundreds of thousands of people homeless.

Expressing his gratefulness to the UN system, its agencies and the international community, Choudhury underlined the need for devising a method whereby our contemporary capabilities can be marshalled to predict and control human sufferings from such natural calamities.

Concern

It is important that the international community gives serious thought to the main focus of the resolution by UN to consider long term and effective solution of this problem, said Choudhury, who was the president of the last General Assembly.

He expressed his concern at the alarming signs of strains and stress in the world economy and said that these signs demanded serious reflection. He said: "The persistence of huge imbalance in the trade flows and international

UN should play role as catalyst for development

Call to alleviate human sufferings

payments, volatile exchange rate fluctuations and sharp conflicts over policies were symptomatic of the crisis that characterised the world economy of today."

He further pointed out that the international debt crisis of an unprecedented magnitude, duration and gravity continued unabated. That real interest rates remain extraordinarily stiff, commodity price in real terms, which constitute two-thirds of developing countries export earnings, have dropped to their lowest levels since the great depression of the thirties.

Protectionism

The real earnings of the developing countries from commodity exports were one fifth - lower in 1986 than in 1980. Despite a short-lived mild recovery during 1983-84, the general trend for commodities has been on decline.

Choudhury told the general assembly that the intensification of protectionism coupled with the slowing of growth in the large industrialised economies had severely constrained



Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh.

the developing countries' exports. Official development assistance had stagnated in real terms.

For the first time since colonial era, developing countries as a whole had become net suppliers of resources to the industrialised countries, he said, adding, "in short, this is a scenario for disaster for the vast

majority of the developing countries."

Painting a gloomy picture of the economy of the developing countries, the foreign minister told the Assembly members that since the adoption of the substantial new programme of action in their favour in 1981, their number had swollen by fully a quarter.

The average annual rate of GDP growth for least developed countries during the first half of the decade was only two per cent. Translated into per capita real terms this indicated a negative growth rate.

Appeal

Choudhury pointed out that the UN development system should play an important role as a catalyst for development that goes much beyond the dollar value of its disbursement. The economic and social challenges confronting the developing countries were of such magnitude and complexity that they could not be faced by them in isolation. He, therefore, laid stress on multilateral economic cooperation.

tion.

Touching on Saarc, Choudhury was confident that this association of seven South Asian countries would be able to evolve fruitful cooperation with regional bodies and the United Nations.

Choudhury made a fervent appeal to both Iran and Iraq to respond to the urgings of the peoples of the world by ending their long fratricidal war.

The foreign minister reaffirmed Bangladesh's support to the Palestinians in unequivocal terms and demanded total and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli forces from all occupied territories including the holy city of Al Quds Al Sharif. He pleaded for formulating a comprehensive plan to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right of self-determination. The PLO being the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people must be able to fully participate on an equal footing with all other parties in any peace process, he said.

Choudhury enlightened the members of General Assembly about the endeavours of Bangladesh to safeguard its sovereignty, develop friendly, bilateral, international cooperation and to promote global peace.

He also spoke elaborately on apartheid, Namibia and continued presence of a foreign military machinery suppressing the freedom of the people of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh offers opportunities

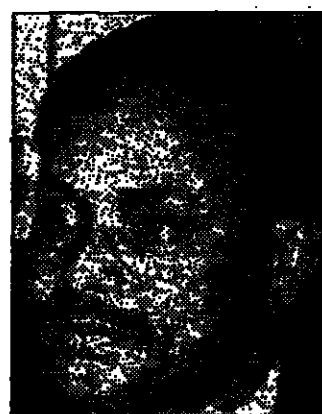
ON this auspicious day we remember with profound respect and solemnity the national heroes who made a supreme sacrifice in 1971 for the Independence of Bangladesh.

I also wish to warmly greet all Bangladeshis - workers, doctors, engineers, teachers and journalists who are working in Kuwait. By their discipline, conduct and hard work they have earned a good name for their country and for themselves. I am sure they will continue to do good works and give account of themselves.

Bangladesh has not only a large qualified manpower including doctors, engineers, teachers and workers but also enormous primary and industrial resources some of which are exported to other countries including Kuwait. Bangladesh jute and jute goods: leather and leather goods, garments, tea, fish, vegetables and fruits have world-wide market because of their high quality.

Bangladesh offers an excellent opportunity to foreign investors for secure and profitable investment in the country. The people are cooperative, hospitable and trustworthy. The government has enacted legislation ensuring terms for foreign investments.

With many rivers, forests, small mountains, long sea beaches, picturesque landscapes and historical sites, Bangladesh is a veritable tourist attraction.



Hossein Mohammad Ershad, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



K.M. Shehabuddin, Ambassador.

Good hotels, motels and various other facilities offered to the tourists make travelling and sight-seeing in Bangladesh

easy and comfortable.

Bangladesh and Kuwait have excellent brotherly relations which are based on strong foundations. Both countries have stood by each other in difficult times. Kuwait's spontaneous moral and material support to Bangladesh during the last devastating floods has left a lasting impression on our people. We pray to Allah for the continued peace, stability and prosperity of Kuwait and for the steady growth of the existing friendly relations between our two countries.

For the last few years under the leadership of President H.M. Ershad the country has been enjoying stability and steady economic development despite many handicaps. The President's personal concern for the welfare of the common people, the decentralisation of the administration and population control have brought benefits to the country. Bangladesh's principled and non-aligned foreign policy with special emphasis on the development of relations with the Islamic world has earned it a place of trust and honour in the comity of nations. Long live Bangladesh - Kuwait friendship.

—Message of
K.M. Shehabuddin,
Ambassador of People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Q. HOW is the economic situation of the country? How good or bad it is?

A. Without doubt we are one of the poorest countries in the world and we have not significantly improved our economic situation for various factors all of which are not within our control. For example, we are producing jute. We are the largest jute growing country in the world. Twenty years ago we could buy a truck by selling 10 maunds (400 kg) of jute, but today to buy the same truck we have to sell 200 maunds (8,000 kg) of jute. So we have been seriously disadvantaged by the international market. We are basically a commodity producing country. The relative price situation in the international market has gone totally against us. This is one of the major reasons of our failure to achieve the amount of economic growth that we hoped for.

Q. What are you doing to overcome this handicap?

A. To start with we are trying to diversify our foreign exchange earning sources. Previously jute used to earn about 85 per cent of our total foreign exchange. Now it earns less than 50 per cent. In the meantime our foreign currency earnings have gone up. That means we export many other items, for example, garments, textiles, paper, newsprint, electric cables, etc.

Q. According to you, in that case, the economic situation is getting better.

A. It is improving in a sense that our total GDP has gone up.

Q. How do you plan to increase the rate of economic growth?

A. Our total development

Bangladesh is one of the most creditworthy nations

Development plan aims at economic growth



A.K. Khandakar, Planning Minister, government of Bangladesh.

plan is oriented towards achieving economic growth. In that, we have certain priorities set. We gave a high priority to the agricultural sector because 86 per cent of the population live in the rural areas, where employment to a large extent is confined to agricultural activities. So we attach a high priority to agricultural sector. We had a plan for a GDP growth of 5.1 per cent for the fiscal year 87-88. We are not sure whether we shall achieve that mainly because of the devastating flood this year.

Q. What was the target for 86-87?

A. It was 5.2 per cent.

Q. What was the achievement?

A. We fell short of that.

The present Bangladesh government has been following a market-oriented, private sector development economic policy. It has made efforts to liberalise trade regulations, remove subsidies and provide export incentives. However, the government has this year suffered two setbacks — first, a devastating flood and then

the present political situation. In an interview with Arab Times News Editor Atiqus Samad, taken before the political troubles began on Nov 10, Bangladesh's planning minister, Air Vice Marshal (Rtd) A.K. Khandakar narrates the economic situation of the country and the plans to improve it.

Q. By how much?

A. We achieved 4.4 per cent.

Q. You say that more importance is given to agriculture. On the other hand prices of fertiliser, insecticide, etc are going up every year due to taxation and some other reason. Why doesn't the government make these available at a cheaper rate?

A. The problem is that the cost of establishing a fertiliser factory has gone up tremendously in the recent past as the value of money has depreciated. As a result the total cost of the project has gone up beyond what we had anticipated.

Q. And what about pesticides?

A. We mostly import pesticides. We do manufacture some, so the same situation holds good for pesticides also.

Q. Does it have to do anything about IMF which wants subsidies to be taken out from fertilisers, pesticides etc?

A. It is a question of viewpoints. You are very correct that certain agencies like IMF or World Bank feel that there should be no subsidies and to an extent there are other

schools of thought who do not agree with that. So there are differences of opinion about this, but still we provide fertilisers at a price which is within a reasonable limit. I won't say that they are heavily subsidised or the prices are heavily inflated. The prices here are fairly in keeping with the international price and the offtake of fertiliser has increased significantly this year though the price is slightly higher than before.

Q. The number of unemployed — both educated and uneducated — is increasing every day. What measures are being taken to make employment available to all these people.

A. One of the main vehicle of employment and income generation is the annual development plan. In fact through the plan itself we employ one million people in implementing the projects themselves.

Q. Do you mean the government offices?

A. In all the sectors.

Q. Does that include the armed forces also?

A. No. I am talking about implementation of projects as due to the productive activities of the implemented projects we nearly employ a million people every year.

Q. That one million may not be new ones?

A. No. It is a continuous process. In the wake it leaves a large number of employed people in various fields. For example a big fertiliser factory. While it is being built the people working in the project are part of the one million people. When the project is completed, twice the number of people are needed to run it.

Q. What is the rate of unemployment now?

A. It is about 11 per cent of the population.

Q. Economic planning of Bangladesh is based on aid from other countries. Do you think the country can live without soliciting aid?

A. As for now, we do need assistance from foreign countries in terms of aid — both grant and loan. However, it is possible to reduce it substantially over a period of time and

the clear aim is to reduce dependence on foreign aid as much as it is practically possible and the thrust is in that direction. But we cannot do it today.

Q. You say that the main thrust of development is towards the agricultural sector. What else?

A. Agriculture and industry basically. After that we invest in all areas directed towards helping these two sectors.

We build flood prevention dams, dig canals, install irrigation pumps. This is a different sector. But these help in protecting crops from flood and provide irrigation.

We establish huge factories for fertiliser and pesticides. This is not directly agricultural sector, they belong to industrial sector. But they help agriculture. We build roads, so that the produce can be marketed easily. So these are all interrelated. And once the crop is harvested the purchasing power of people increases. They will buy goods and to provide these the industries have to produce more. Once people have more money they

will buy more and there choice will vary and to satisfy their appetite various industries will grow up. Once these industries start producing, people will start buying. So it is a big cycle.

Q. What is your target when you can stop taking aid, say 10 years, 20 years?

A. To be frank, I cannot give any time frame for reaching a zero stage of taking aid because if you look at advancing countries like India, Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico, you will find that they still take aid.

Q. They borrow.

A. We also borrow, not everything is grant. Even in case of other countries the whole amount is not loan. Some portion is grant. For example in case of a large country the dependence on grant is 10 per cent. But that 10 per cent may be more than the total amount of aid we receive, that may be 70 or 75 per cent.

Here I want to mention one thing. Due to our sensible strategy from the very beginning we are one of the most creditworthy nations in the world. We have never default-

ted. Not to any agency.

Q. Constrained by the size of the local market, obviously Bangladesh has to look at overseas markets. Where are you trying to find avenues of accommodation?

A. We are trying to occupy a place in the international markets. But the problem unfortunately is that all the developed as well as developing countries are protectionists. They do not easily allow others to enter their markets. That is a very big constraint. We are, however, trying our best, we are succeeding also, and income from exports has definitely gone up.

Q. What are the prospects of domestic resource mobilisation?

A. The prospects are there. It will depend mainly on the breakthrough in the agricultural sector — because 86 per cent of people live in villages and are in some way or other connected with agricultural activities. If the production increases they will have more money and purchasing power. They will buy more goods and that will induce more industries to be set up and production in other sectors will increase — it is a whole cycle.

But we are not stopping at that. We are not placing importance on agricultural sector alone. We have gone in a big way in setting up cottage and small scale industries. If we can succeed in extending and enlarging the small scale industries then we will be able to provide employment and to generate income at a large scale and will lead to our capability of establishing big industries on our own.

(Continued on Page 14)

দুর্রানী ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এক্সচেঞ্জ কোঃ লিঃ



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especially to BANGLADESH,
SRI LANKA, THE PHILIPPINES
& PAKISTAN

Village breaks the ice on taboo subject

A success story in population planning

The 'Village of the Tamarind Tree' is like any other village in Bangladesh sedimentary paddy fields, mud huts and creeks brimming with water. But beneath the serenity of the landscape, a revolution is taking place. People are coming out of the web of superstitions and accepting modern methods of planned parenthood. They have broken past inhibitions and talk freely about birth control. The change in attitude in the village signifies the country's success in popular planning.

By Ahmed Fazi

ALONG the winding silty path, Naima Rajbangshi, aged 26 moves on her weekly round of her clients with her satchel of contraceptives and her information kit in the lush village "Tetulbaria" about 45 km from Dhaka. Mrs Rajbangshi is a field worker of the family planning department, one among thousands who cover the 64,000 old villages in Bangladesh where the country's majority people live.



An ideal family in Bangladesh. The result of hard work in removing inhibitions against a planned family are shown in a declining national birth rate.

"There was a time when the village was small and there was enough fish in the creek for all," Mrs Rajbangshi recalls of her own childhood when she went to the local primary school. As she graduated from high school she saw the village population grow in number, the soggy paddy fields being divided into smaller portions and the people becoming poorer.

Now as a family planning worker, Mrs Rajbangshi who has a daughter only in five years of her marriage, tries to convince her fellow villagers to have not more than two children and to space their births. She does not stop by merely motivating them, she also distributes the free contraceptives supplied by the government.



"If you give fewer births, you will have better health and remain pretty" is one family planning message used by social workers.

It is workers like Mrs Rajbangshi who have been able to raise the rate of use of contraceptives by fertile couples from 7.7 per cent in 1975 to 29.8 per cent in 1985. According to estimates made by the Planning Commission, the state body formulating long term national plans, about two million births were averted between 1975 and 1979 because of the family planning programme. The same, estimated for the period 1982-85 is about five million.

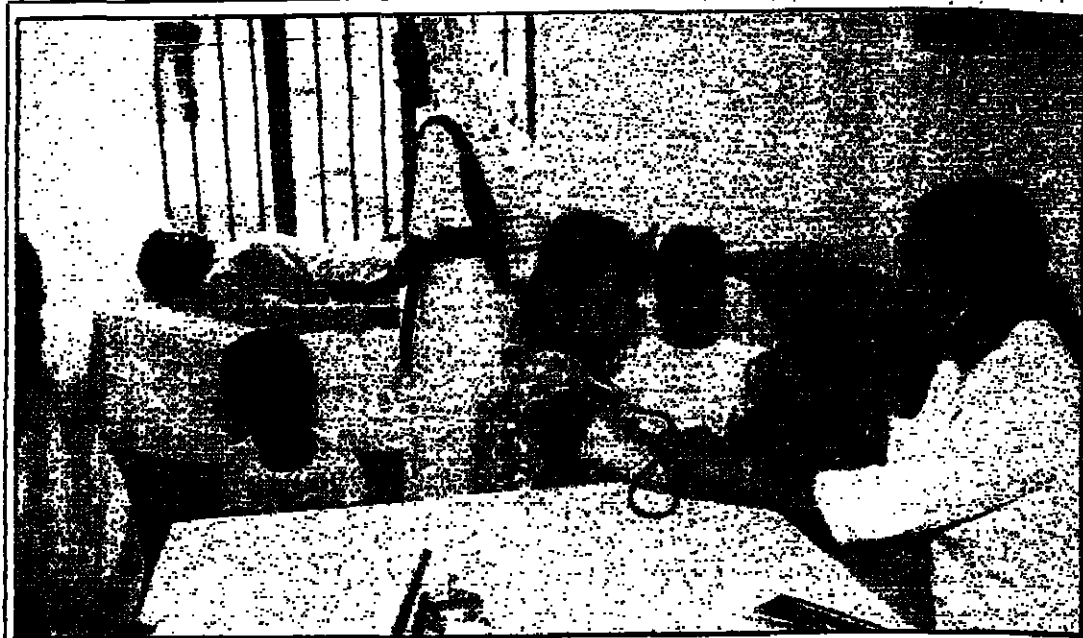
by the building of an infrastructure to deliver family planning devices and the development of health related services for mother and children. The political commitment and the earnestness to translate it into action are manifest in the policy decisions, the involvement of all developmental ministries in population activities and in resource allocations. The latter for the population sector has increased substantially over the years from taka 50 million in 1972-73 to nearly 14200 million in 1986-87. Current allocations account for more than 3.7 per cent of the Annual Development Programme. The utilisation of ADP allocation in the population sector has also improved and was about 85 per cent during 1985-86. Even a higher utilisation rate is predicted for the coming years.

Col Mallick's optimism is based on the fact that more and more fertile couples are practising one or the other kind of contraception. Only 3.9 per cent couples were acceptors of family planning devices in 1969. But this rose to 12.7 per cent in 1975 and was nearly 30 per cent in 1986.

But even with these achievements demographic projections based on the experience of the past have shown that it would be difficult to achieve the target of the Net Reproductive Rate (NRR) of One by 1990. The family planning programme was therefore recast into three phases to achieve NRR One by the year 2000. These separate but overlapping phases are:

(a) Immediate Action Plan (1983-1990), (b) Medium Term Perspective (1991-2000) and (c) Long Term Perspective (2001 and beyond).

The first phase emphasises meeting the latent unmet demand of contraceptives and to increase it to about 40 per cent of the fertile couples by 1990. During the second phase the coveted NRR One has to be achieved while the third phase will concentrate on maintaining NRR One until a zero population growth rate is obtainable.



Bangladesh's health policy places an emphasis on producing primary healthcare facilities in rural areas.

Basic health facilities for all – by year 2000

By Monzur-ul-Karim

THE goal of the health policy of the Government of Bangladesh is to provide the minimum health facilities to its people by the year 2000. The Primary Healthcare Programme is a vital step in achieving that objective. An increased emphasis has been put on Primary Healthcare facilities in rural areas to remove the disparity that has existed since the colonial rule in urban and rural healthcare systems. This objective is also reflected in the country's Third Five Year Plan. The programme of activities in the health sector includes minimum health facilities for all and controlling the high population growth rate.

The main objectives of the Health Policy of Bangladesh are as follows:

- "Qualitative improvement of health services and coverage of increased number of people under healthcare programme."
- "Strengthening and coordinating the primary healthcare services further."
- "Prevention, control and treatment of major infectious diseases."
- "Ensuring development of health and human resources."
- "Continued development of Ayurvedic, Homeopathic, Unani systems of medicines."
- "Mobilisation of resources to meet increased demand for health services."
- "Development of the system of production supply and distribution of essential and other drugs and vaccines."

• "Development of a system for the collection and dissemination of information on health system."

• "Promotion of research activities in health and organisational chemistry."

Three phases of health system.

A three-phased primary healthcare services and reference system has been put into effect. They are as follows: "About 27,000 Health Workers visit households in villages under a particular programme to see for themselves health problems there, advise people and prescribe medicines for simple and common diseases. Treatment is also available at Ward and Union levels through Health Centres. And, if necessary, patients are referred to Upasila Health Complexes for treatment."

"In each Upasila Health Complex, there is a 31-bed hospital having a total of nine qualified doctors including three specialists. Treatment in hospitals, supervision of field level activities and collection of

statistics on health issues are done through Upasila Health Complexes."

Family Planning activities are conducted under the supervision of a Family Planning Officer. A mid-level specialist service is provided through sadar hospital in each of the districts.

The highest medical service is provided through 8 Medical College Hospitals, a special Post-Graduate Health Institute and other specialised hospitals.

The National Drug Policy of the Government has set in motion a new era in the country's health services and has been widely acclaimed both at home and abroad. The objective of the Drug Policy is to ensure supply of good quality essential drugs.

To this end, pharmaceutical units have been established to augment production of essential drug under the Drug Policy.

The Drug Policy has been helpful in the development of local pharmaceutical industry.

Development plan

(Continued from Page 13)

In fact today, a large percentage of relatively simpler components of machineries of jute and cotton mills, vehicles, lathe machines are produced in the country and the quality is as good as the imported ones, if not better.

We have established industrial estates in all but 24 districts. By the end of next year, these districts will also have their industrial estates.

The breakthrough can be achieved by trying to increase the agricultural production level. At the moment the yield per acre is very low. There is enough room to go up. We are now self-sufficient in fertiliser. We are developing the irrigation network and building flood protection dams thus making areas cultivable, which previously were not.

Q. What is the impact of the flood on the economy and is there any possibility of recovery this year from the devastation?

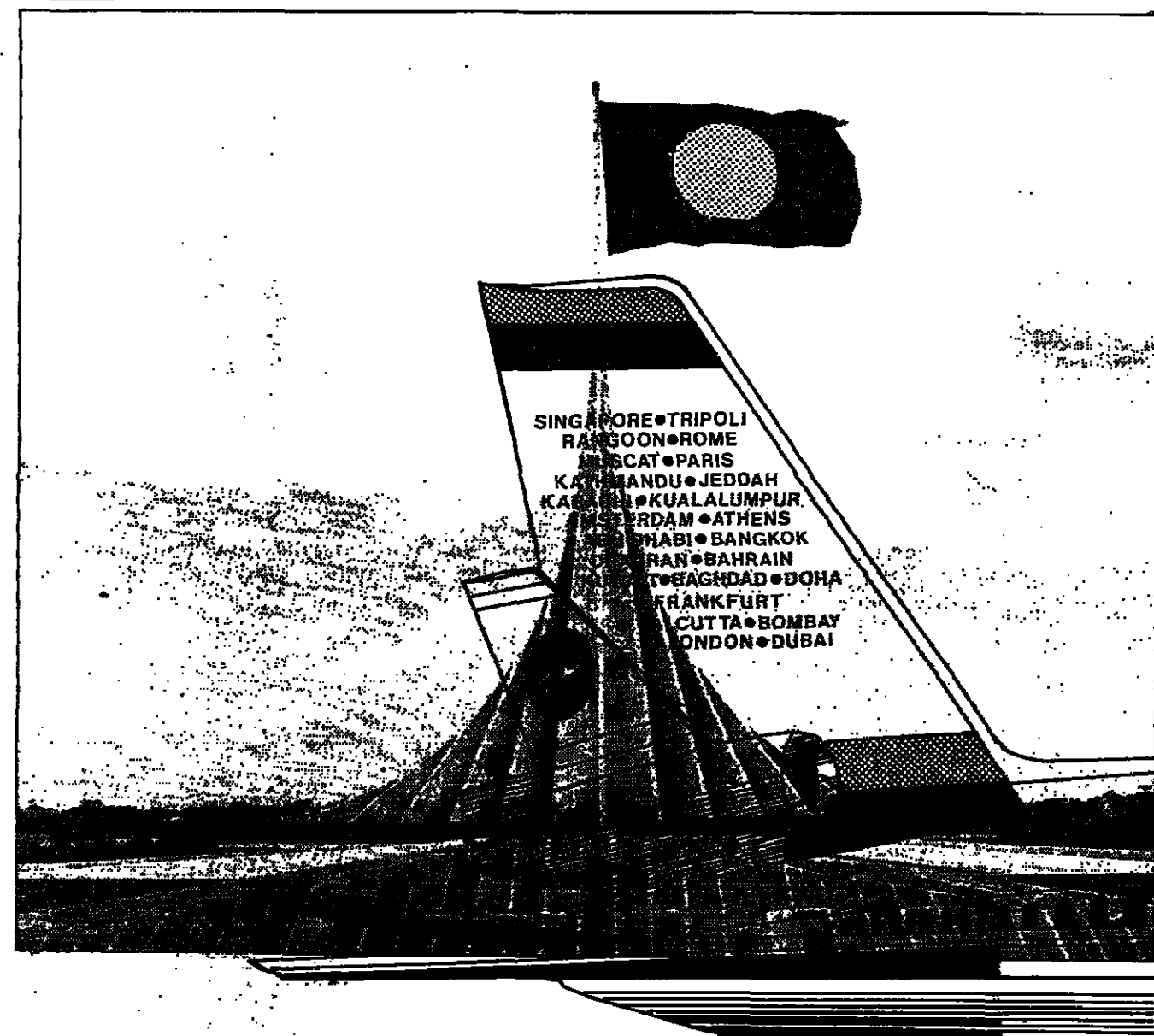
A. The floods this year had been absolutely unprecedented. Never before floods have

come so fast, with this magnitude and lasted for such a long time. So its damaging effect on agriculture, infrastructures like roads, culverts, bridges, railway lines, primary schools, rural hospitals, etc. had been tremendous.

We have tried to minimise the effect as much as possible. We have tried not to adversely affect our development programme. We did not divert any money from the development sector and dealt with the flood situation separately. We sought assistance from the Asian Development Bank and World Bank to assist us in the rehabilitation programme. So the floods will not effect the annual development plan, except in one sector, agriculture and it will have a spillover effect in other sectors. One crop has been totally damaged. It is a total loss. So to that extent the floods will effect our economic growth this year.

We are trying to make up some of the loss by extensive cultivation, but I don't think we will be able to recover totally.

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KEIFAN, near stadium, sharing accommodation for bachelors. Bus routes 21, 42, 31. Tele. Lawrence, 5613281. Franky, 4831955 ext. 439. (AT3-40029-3)

SHAAB, near Jamiya, House 8, Block 3, Street 36. One room with kitchen and bathroom for a small family, working girls or bachelors. Tele. Pinto, 2422238. Mornings only. (AT3-40016-3)

JULEEB Al Shiyoohk, opp. petrol station. Sharing accommodation in a single bedroom flat, fully furnished, for one bachelor preferably Bangladeshi, from 1.1.88. Rent KD45. Tele. 4896000 ext. 3807. (AT3-40038-3)

DASMA, Area 1, Street 18, House 3. Two rooms for small families or working ladies. Tele. Zafar Mahmood, 2404223. (AT3-40060-3)

KEIFAN, Area 1, Street 12, House 16. Accommodation for one or two Catholic bachelors to share with another Goan bachelor. Bus routes 20, 22, 23. Tele. Delfino, 3295445 ext 1610, 7.30am-1.15pm. (AT3-40055-3)

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, Building 6, Flat 6, 1st floor. One room with kitchen facilities for two Indian bachelors, to share with a Goan family. Tele. Catarina, 4841554, 4833770, 8 am - 12.30 pm and 4 - 7 pm. (AT3-40049-3)

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SHARQ, one room in a fully furnished flat. CAC, water, electricity and tele. for one or two Urdu speaking bachelors. Rent KD90. Tele. Mohd. Sadiq, 4714398, 2469431 after 10 am. (AT5-40105-3)

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, Area 6, Building 80114, Flat 14, 4th floor. One furnished room for two Indian working girls/2 bachelors to share with Indian couple. Rent KD. 60. Tele. 4710080, after 3 pm. (AT5-40087-3)

SALMIYA, two bedrooms and a storeroom in a furnished flat. Close to the bus stop. Bus No 19 and 30. Rent KD140. Tele. 5747392, from 8.30 am - 5.30 pm. (AT4-40041-3)

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IMPALA, 77 model, registered upto November 88. KD350, ono. Tele. 3904734, Res. (AT3-40024-3)

JAGUAR XJ-S, H.E., 1982, AC, automatic, blue, 12 cylinders, needs some work. KD2000, ono. Tele. Chuck, 3901575 ext 10, after 5 pm. (AT3-40036-3)

GMC Jimmy, with winch, registered till December 1988, in good roadworthy condition. Tele. 3901575 ext 11 evenings. (AT3-40038-3)

HONDA Accord 1982. Hatchback, dark blue, full options, automatic, sunroof, electric windows, AC. In good condition. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD800, negotiable. Tele. 245977 ext.3843, from 8.30 am - 12.30 pm. (AT4-40048-3)

GALANT GL, 1979 model, insured upto 3/88, grey metallic, manual shift. AC and in good condition. KD250. Tele. Khalid, 4815080, 4815318, from 8 am - 5 pm. (AT3-40030-3)

TOYOTA Cressida GL 83 model, fully automatic, 59000 kms. Also Chevrolet Impala, 83 model, fully automatic. Both cars are in excellent condition. KD1450 each ono. Tele. 2642787. (AT4-40074-3)

AUDI 100 CD, 1979 model, AC, automatic, metallic green, new tyres, new exhaust and battery in excellent condition. KD480 cash. Tele. John Brand 5749038, after 2.30 pm. (AT4-40061-3)

AUSTIN Montego Mayfair 1987, white, manual power steering, electric windows, Owner leaving Kuwait. KD2500, or 38 payments. KD79. Tele. Hearne 4347210, 8.30 am - 2 pm and 3949158 from 9 - 11.30 and 4 - 6 pm. (AT5-40071-3)

OPEL Rekord 1980, white, manual, engine completely rebuilt, AC, excellent body, clean interior, radio, cassette player etc. KD550. Tele. Hearne 4347210 9.30 am - 2 pm, 3949158 from 9 - 11.30 am and 4 - 6 pm. (AT5-40071-3)

HYUNDAI Excel 1.5 GLS, December 85, automatic, 23,000 kms in excellent condition. KD1050. Tele. Mr Tony, 2422085 Off. 5613644 Res. (AT5-40106-3)

TOYOTA Cressida 1986, silver grey, self driven, 18,000 kms. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD. 2800. Tele. Jaideep, 2457630, 9 am - 12 noon. (AT5-40058-3)

TOYOTA Corolla 1.3, 1985, AC, manual white, 62,000 kms, insured upto May 1988 in excellent condition. KD350 cash. KD 861 left in instalments. Tele. Joseph 2422343, 6-8 pm. (AT5-40075-1)

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میں کی ہے، اہل عربوں پر حملہ کیا ہے، پہلے پہل سے اہل عربوں پر حملہ کیا جاتا تھا، مسلمانوں کو مارا جاتا تھا، مسلمانوں کے گھر آگ لگائی جاتے تھے۔ اہل عربوں میں سے ایک شخص نے کہا کہ اہل عربوں پر حملہ کیا جاتا تھا، مسلمانوں کو مارا جاتا تھا، مسلمانوں کے گھر آگ لگائی جاتے تھے۔

100

RAMESH AND RONNIE SLAM HALF-CENTURIES

BKME edge Hawks for Bawa Shield



Ejaz scored 90

Evergreen move into semifinals

EVERGREEN moved into the semifinals of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy with a 32-run victory over Starlite Cricket Club at the NG ground on Friday.

After winning the toss, Evergreen opened its innings through Ejaz and Baber who scored 82 runs off the first eight overs. Evergreen lost Baber after he had scored 29 with the total score at 84.

Ejaz kept on hammering all the bowlers and was finally out for 90 after hitting 11 fours and a six. Shabbir was the other batsman in form and scored an unbeaten 48 as Evergreen put on 209 for the loss of seven wickets in 27 overs.

Rafiq Butt with 14 and Dawood 10 were the other batsmen to reach the double figures. For Starlite, Qayyum took four wickets for 25 runs.

Early
Starlite, set to score nearly eight runs an over for victory, suffered an early setback when they lost their top batsman, Arshad Shams, on the first ball of Dawood Baig's over.

None of the other Starlite batsmen could repair the damage and the whole team was out for 177 in the 27th over.

Rafiq Butt was the main wicket-taker for Evergreen, dismissing five of Starlite's batsmen for only 30 runs in six overs.

Evergreen play again tomorrow, meeting Hawks in a match of the Pat Keely Trophy at the Ahmadi ground.

They will be in action again on Friday, this time against Flying Arrows in the finals of the GCL Trophy at the EPI ground. The match will start at 9.00 am.

Rangers take Flying Arrows to task

RANGERS Cricket Club defeated Flying Arrows by 40 runs in a GCL Thursday League match at the EPI ground on Friday.

Rangers, after winning the toss, elected to make first use of the wicket. They opened the innings through Adnan and Zia who put on 100 runs for the first wicket in only 13 overs.

Zia was the first batsman to be out when he was caught at mid-wicket after a quick innings of 58 runs which included seven fours.

Javed Kaloo joined Adnan and both of them kept moving the scoreboard at a fast rate. Javed was out after scoring 21 but Adnan remained unbeaten on 81, which included four fours, as Rangers scored 175 for the loss of only two wicket at the end of their 24 allotted overs.

Opened
For Flying Arrows, Vijay was the only wicket-taker with two.

Flying Arrows, in reply, opened their innings through Imdad and Salim but were soon in trouble when the latter was bowled in the first over of Nasir.

Derrick joined Imdad and both of them tried to keep up with the run-rate. Flying Arrows lost Zia after he had scored 22 and none of the other batsmen, except Derrick, were able to face the spin attack of Zia and Ajaz.

Derrick hit 68 as Flying Arrows were all out for 135. For Rangers, Ajaz took three wickets while Zia and Nasir got two each.

West Germans beat Canadians

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Dec 15. (AP) Defending champion Bergisch Gladbach of West Germany beat Canada 1-0 today in the final round of the 1987 Taipei International women's invitational soccer tournament.

Striker Gisela Dajl scored West Germany's lone goal in the 14th minute.

New Zealand's national team defeated the United States' California-El Camino team 1-0 with forward Wendy Sharpe scoring a 45-yard goal in the 17th minute of the second half.

In another match, Taiwan's Mulan squad blanked Australia's national squad 2-0.

Failed
Japan blanked Hong Kong 5-0 and Taiwan's Liangyu battled to a 1-1 draw with Polynesia's Royal Hawaiian soccer club in consolation matches for teams that failed to advance to the final round.

BKME won the Bawa Shield cricket tournament for the first time with a narrow three-run victory over Hawks in the finals, organised by Hubara, at the Ahmadi grounds earlier this week.

BKME, after skipper Mahmood Bastaki won the toss, opted to bat and opened their innings through Ramesh and Ronnie who put on 128 for the first wicket.

Denied

All the bowlers were shown scant respect as Ramesh hammered 71 before he was caught by Ishfaq off Ashraf. He hit two sixes and five fours.

BKME lost another wicket when James was run out for five but Ram Mohan and Ronnie denied the Hawks' bowlers any success to lift BKME to 179 by the end of the 25 allotted overs.

Ram Mohan's unbeaten 29 included four fours and a huge six. Ronnie hammered three fours in his unbeaten 60.

Hawks, set a daunting task of scoring well over 7 runs an over, started in earnest as openers Amjad and Shivi put on 54 for the first wicket. Amjad got himself run out for 28, trying to steal a second run.

Shivi scored 29 before being stumped by Ronnie off Mathew.



Bastaki receives the shield from G.S. Bawa as Alan Wade (extreme right) Secretary of Hubara Cricket Club, looks on.

In spite of these setbacks, Hawks were right on target, helped along by some wayward bowling and shoddy fielding by BKME.

Hawks were in sight of victory as Sarwar and Ishfaq put on 59 runs for the 6th wicket. With only 23 runs needed in 5 overs, they lost Sarwar bowled by James for 36. In the next over Ishfaq, going for a wild swing at Rocky, found

his wicket shattered. On the next delivery Rocky picked up on his follow through and his throw at the stumps sent Waheed Malik back to the pavilion.

As tension mounted, Hawks needed 6 off the last over. A throw by Naushad to Ramesh left Ashraf attempting a second run yards out of the crease.

With the lastman in Hawks

still needed 5 runs to win. They managed 2 runs of the first three balls. Ram Mohan, showing quick reflexes, came up with one of his brilliant match winning catches, latching onto a full blooded shot off a full toss from Sakawat at short midwicket to leave BKME winners by three runs.

Earlier in the morning, BKME

brushed aside the challenge of Flying Arrows in the semifinals with a convincing 8-wicket win, while Hawks defeated favourites Hubara by 96 runs.

BKME won the toss and put Flying Arrows to bat. Openers Verold and Imdad put on 32 runs for the 1st wicket. Once they were separated the rest of the innings just fell apart, to the bowling of Rocky, Mathew and Ramesh. Flying Arrows were all out for 82.

Rocky had final analysis of 4 for 18 in 5 overs, Mathew claimed 2 for 14 in 5 overs, Ramesh 2 for 2 in 1.3 overs and Salim and James got a scalp each. Imdad was the only batsman to show any resistance scoring 23 runs.

BKME started their innings in whirlwind fashion as openers Ronnie and Ramesh scored 55 runs in first 8 overs before the latter was wicket on the fence by Derick off Javed for 29.

Target
Ronnie was soon out low to Ekansyake for 24. Rodney and Siddique then took BKME past the target without being separated scoring 13 and 10 respectively.

G.S. Bawa, the sponsor of the tournament, presented the prizes to the winners and runners-up at the end of the match.

Streetfighter Connors mellows with age

NEW YORK, Dec 15. (Reuters) Jimmy Connors' "streetfighter" instincts have earned him the awe and respect of players almost half his age.

But at 35, Connors thinks he has mellowed in recent years.

"I was an animal earlier in my career," Connors said. "I was the one that had — what's it called when you foam at the mouth? ... Rabies I had rabies."

"I'm still an animal but different. I've bitten a lot of people along the way and I don't need to bite them anymore."

Defeated
Connors bowed out of the 1987 Grand Prix Masters this month when he defaulted at 3-4 in the first set against top-seed Ivan Lendl.

He had been hampered by a heavy cold during the elite eight-man tournament and complained that he could not breathe or stop coughing.

Connors now has six weeks away from tennis, interrupted by one exhibition match, before resuming competitive play next year.

He said he will not curtail his playing plans for 1988 despite a nagging foot injury which inhibited his performances towards the end of the season.

The injury — a bruised bone on the ball of his right foot — needs surgery, but Connors prefers to play. The six-month break an operation would require could mean the end of his career.



Connors: still near the top

"I have to play eight tournaments next year which is good," Connors said. "But I'll probably play more than that. I'll probably play 12-15 tournaments."

"That's the most important thing for me now — number one to be in shape and number two to look forward to going out and playing and grinding the matches out," Connors said. "If I don't have that attitude, I'll go into something else."

In his long and illustrious tennis career, Connors' accomplishments include five US Open titles, three Wimbledon titles and a total of 105 career singles titles. "I had a ball, I really did," Connors said. "I did it the way I

wanted to. I had a good time playing. I enjoyed my tennis. I worked hard and I was successful at playing well."

The brash American reigned as world number one from 1974-78 and has remained near the top since then. But what Connors has not done is win a Grand Prix tournament since October 1984 at Tokyo.

However, 1987 was a consistent year for Connors. He reached the semifinals of both Wimbledon and the US Open, and he suffered only the occasional loss to players ranked below him.

"I had a very good year overall and to play the way I did was pretty exciting," said Connors. "I'm not saying that I'm not satisfied with the year that I had."

Connors returned reluctantly to the Masters which he skipped for five years in the mid-1970s, saying he prefers to spend the latter part of the year at home with his family.

"This is my vacation time so I come in here and I play, and I play as is," Connors said. "I'm just going out to do the best I can, and whatever happens, happens."

His carefree attitude extends to other tournaments as well.

"I go to a place with the attitude I'm on vacation and I'm playing for fun," Connors said.

Connors is considered remarkable not only for his physical endurance but also for his mental fortitude. He is clearly still in love with the game, but says he no longer takes it off the court with him.

"I'm only mentally into it when I'm out there playing," Connors said. "That's never been my game. I've always been into it from when I get up in the morning until the match is over."

Should he lose his eagerness to compete or nagging injuries prevent him from playing, Connors said he will look at other priorities that now dominate his time away from the court.

"I lead three different lives," said Connors. "First my family, then my tennis, then my business."

Connors and wife Patti have two young children and spend their time between homes in California and Florida.

Mogren wins 30km World Cup race

CASTELROTTO, Italy, Dec 15. (AP) Sweden's Torgny Mogren outspun teammate Gunde Svan and Canadian Pierre Harvey in a close finish today to win a 30-kilometre cross-country ski race of the men's World Cup near this northern Italian resort.

The Swede, who had won the opening World Cup race in La Clusaz, France — a 15-kilometre race last Saturday — piled up a commanding lead of 50 points in the overall standings through a second consecutive triumph.

The race featured a new starting system, with all competitors skiing off simultaneously.

The winner, a 24-year-old from Asama who is the defending World Cup champion, covered the distance, three times a 10-kilometre ring at 1,600 metres altitude, in one hour, 16.11.7 minutes.

Svan, a former Olympic and world champion, finished 0.5 seconds behind.

Harvey, winner of a World Cup race in the previous season and Canada's top hope for a medal in the Olympic Games at Calgary, trailed Mogren by 3.1 seconds in third place.

Mogren was off slowly when 108 skiers started at the same time in an experimental system to make cross-country skiing more spectacular. Nordic events have been raced against the clock, individually.

The Swede, also delayed by a broken pole, trailed the leaders by about 20 seconds after 10 kilometres.

Using a new pole given him by a teammate, he launched a successful pursuit by the 20th kilometre and won a three-way sprint on the final straight.

A third Swede, Christer Majbäck, took the fourth place ahead of Norway's Vegard Ulvang.

Jan Ottosson, also of Sweden, edged Norwegian Pal Mikkelss for sixth place.

Continental Cup

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida, Dec 15. (AP) Ann Grossman beat Sandra Reichel 6-0 6-1 as the United States defeated Austria 3-0 yesterday in the second round of the Continental Cup International Junior Girls Team Tennis Championship.

Laxmi Poruri defeated Birgit Arming, 6-3 6-1 in singles and teamed with Grossman for a 6-2 6-2 doubles victory in the tournament for players 18 and under.

Edberg doubtful for Davis Cup final

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, Dec 15. (Reuters) Swedish ace Stefan Edberg sprained his right ankle in training yesterday putting his participation in this weekend's Davis Cup tennis final against India in jeopardy.

"My foot is swollen at the moment, so all I can do is rest and see what it looks like tomorrow," Edberg told Reuters by telephone from his hotel room in Gothenburg.

Edberg, the world number two, declined to speculate on whether he would be fit for Friday's opening matches, saying: "This has not happened to me in the past seven or eight years."

"It would be very sad if I couldn't play, but I'm sure we will win the final without me on court," Edberg said.

Sweden's non-playing captain Hans Olsson can wait until Thursday's draw to replace Edberg if necessary.

The other Swedes on the team, bidding to regain the Davis Cup title they lost to Australia in last year's final, are Mats Wilander, Anders Jarryd and Joakim Nyström.

Sweden are in their fifth successive final and will play India on an indoor clay court, the same surface they beat United States on in the 1984 final here.

Cyclists caught up in French campaign against drug abuse

PARIS, Dec 15. (Reuters) Time trials have turned into times of trial for French cyclists caught up in doping offences amid a larger campaign to combat drug abuse in sport.

An amateur cyclist was jailed for two months and 15 other riders received suspended prison sentences in an unprecedented trial of more than 60 cyclists, doctors, pharmacists and their assistants, which ended in Laon recently.

Twenty-three people are on trial in Poitiers on similar counts of using, prescribing, providing or distributing banned drugs.

Disposed
These are minor figures in the cycling world, but even the ambitions of the weekend amateur seem disposed to feed off the chemically-induced speed of amphetamine-based drugs.

Higher up the scale, this year's Tour de France produced evidence of abuse at the top when Italy's Guido Bontempi and West German Dietrich Thurau were fined and given suspended one-month bans after positive doping tests. Bontempi was tested after winning a stage in the world's most famous cycling race.

French honour was stung last month with news that women's world cycling champion Jeannie Longo had returned a positive doping test after setting a world three-km record in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in September.

Policeman Demarne told the magazine he had taken small doses of testosterone in injections but said athletics was healthy compared with the "massive" doping he had seen in body-

building gymnasiums. Romanian-born coach Carmen Hodas has been cleared of allegations by former international athletes Christine da Lage and Liliane Menissier and decathlete Jean-Bernard Royer in the same campaign of offering banned substances.

French Secretary of State for Sport Christian Bergelin launched a "merciless struggle" against drug abuse last May.

"Public authorities ... will be intransigent with cheats and their providers. We believe doping is suicide on credit because it causes enormous damage in the medium and long term after the sports career," he said.

Top-level athletes mounted an anti-dope campaign in October in the wake of allegations which, European 110 metres hurdles champion Stéphane Caristan said, allowed doubt to be cast on the credibility of performances.

Caristan and his team-mates drafted a manifesto which declared that signatories "have never taken and never will voluntarily take banned products for any purpose whatsoever."

The French Athletics Federation increased efforts and carried out 152 controls during the past season — fourth place among the 40 national federations which pursued the same policy.

Increased controls are in evidence across the sporting spectrum in France and led to dope tests at last month's Paris Open tennis tournament — checks unprecedented in their form on the Grand Prix circuit.

Some defendants at the six-



Longo: returned positive dope test

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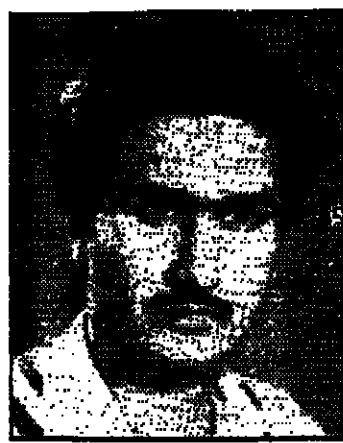
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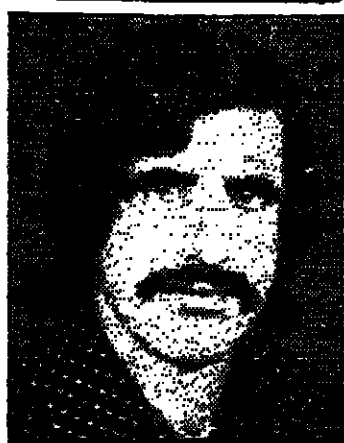
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Arshad: quick 64



Sher Afzal: defiant 50

Gulf Bank and Starlite score easy victories

GULF Bank and Starlite scored easy wins in their Air Lanka Thursday League matches at the Ahmadi grounds. Gulf Bank brushed aside Falcon by 64 runs while Starlite defeated Deccan Green by 31 runs.

Gulf Bank, seeking revenge for an earlier defeat by Falcon, were given a good start by their openers Pervaiz and Alex who put on 74 runs for the first wicket before the latter was bowled by Munir for 22.

Trouble
Pervaiz seemed to be heading for a big score but was trapped low by Zahid for 47. Gulf Bank lost two quick wickets to leave them in a little bit of trouble at 88 for four in 14 overs.

Aijaz and Remy repaired the damage and took the score to 187 before Aijaz was run out for 50. He hit five fours. Remy, playing a captain's knock, remained unbeaten on 53 as his team put on 191 for the loss of six wickets in their 24 allotted overs.

Falcon started their reply confidently, with Zahid and Sher Afzal scoring 30 off only four overs before Remy bowled Zahid for 14.

The middle order batsmen

found themselves at sea against the spin of Ilyas Manjre who took four for 26 in 4.4 overs. Alex also put in a good spell taking three for 40 as Falcon reached 129 for the loss of nine wickets in their allotted overs. Only Sher Afzal offered any resistance with a defiant 50.

In the other match, Arshad went on the rampage hammering four fours and three sixes in his 64 as Starlite put on 161 in 22 overs. Ifthikar 20 and Maqsood 30 were the other main scorers.

For Deccan Green, Zulqarnain was the main wicket-taker with four for 47 in six overs.

In reply, Deccan Green could only manage 130 for the loss of seven wickets although Salim Anwar hit 49, Aklesh 28 and Arun 22.

All the other batsmen fell to the pace of Zagar and the spin of Qayyum who took two and three wickets respectively.

In the remaining matches of the League, Unity face Deccan Green and Starlite meet Gulf Bank on Dec 24; Falcon play Unity and Gulf Bank take on Deccan Green on Jan 7 while Unity play Starlite and Deccan Green meet Falcon on Jan 21.

IAAF upholds result of Rome long jump

ROME, Dec 15. (Reuters) The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) ruled yesterday that the controversial result of the men's long jump at the World Championships was correct and that Italian Giovanni Evangelisti should keep his bronze medal, Italian officials said.

An official statement issued by the IAAF's three-man technical commission and released by Italian sports authorities said: "The competition was conducted in the correct manner and the official result should not be changed."

Investigate
The Italian Athletics Federation (Fidal) asked the IAAF to investigate the matter last month after reports which suggested a measuring error of more than half a metre in favour of Evangelisti.

In the September 5 event held in Rome, Carl L. Lewis of the United States won gold with 8.67 metres, the Soviet Union's Robert Emmiyan second with 8.53 and Evangelisti third with 8.38. Larry Myricks came fourth with 8.33 metres.

But in November Italian Television computer and video projections appeared to show that Evangelisti's jump was about 58 centimetres under the official result and that Myricks should have taken the bronze.

Later, Italian athletics coach Alessandro Donati alleged in a statement to police that the result

had been deliberately fixed in the Italian's favour. Fidal strongly denied this allegation and threatened legal action against Donati.

Monitored
The IAAF commission inquiry said:

— "The event had been monitored throughout by an international judge."

— "The electronic measuring equipment had been checked before and after the event and found to be working accurately."

— "Any possibility of fraud had been excluded."

— "No protests of any sort had been made during the event or within the authorised time limit afterwards."

— "Television replays, video or computer projections after the event were technically unreliable."

The commission said that to avoid any similar incidents in future, it had asked the IAAF council to put forward specific proposals for coordinating supervision among the various judges in long jump competitions.

Inquiry
The statement said Fidal had behaved scrupulously by launching its own inquiry and sending all its reports to the technical commission.

Fidal spokesman Augusto Frasca told Reuters: "We are very happy with the result but we never had any doubts and always hoped that this would be the outcome."

Bailey takes Jazz past Supersonics

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec 15. (AP) Thurl Bailey scored 29 points and the Utah Jazz, behind a 21-5 run in the first period, defeated the Seattle Supersonics 116-95.

John Stockton added a career-high 26 points, including 11 of Utah's first 14 points, while Karl Malone had 22. Stockton hit 9 of 10 and 8 of 8 free throws. He also made five steals in the game.

Dale Ellis led the Sonics with 29 points. Tom Chambers added 13, all in the second half after the Jazz had taken an insurmountable lead.

The Jazz used a 21-5 spurt to take a 28-13 lead. Utah extended its margin to 56-36 at the half and the closest the Supersonics could get in the final period was 17 points.

"Stockton is a great guard," Seattle coach Bernie Bickerstaff said. "He has really improved. He dishes the ball out well and he raises the level of play of the other four players on the court."

Utah coach Frank Layden agreed.

"I'm very happy for John. He played a tremendous game, but then he's capable of playing like that regularly."

"John wasn't the only player who played well tonight," Layden added. "I can't think of one of our players who didn't have a good game."

SPORTS

INDIAN BOWLERS RUIN TOURISTS' HOPES OF BIG SCORE

West Indies take first innings lead

BOMBAY, Dec 15, (Reuters): The West Indies took a belated first innings lead on the fourth day of the second cricket Test today, but the day belonged to the Indian bowlers who ruined the tourists' hopes of a big score.

West Indies were 327 for nine at the close, leading by 46 on the first innings but with only a faint hope of forcing a result on the final day tomorrow.

Dependence
Although Richie Richardson made the biggest total of 89 runs, patiently amassed over nearly four hours, the day revealed again the West Indians' dependence on their skipper Viv Richards.

opener Gordon Greenidge went early to a catch off Ravi Shastri for 15, and when the left-arm spinner dismissed Desmond Haynes for 58, Richards and Richardson had it all to do.

But Richards, on full song with 37 runs to his name, was bowled by a beautiful delivery from Maninder Singh that lifted past the West Indian's bat to remove his offside ball.

With Richards gone, Gus Logie run out the very next ball for no score and only 146 runs on



Richardson: played the sheet anchor role

the scoreboard, the visitors put the shutters up and their heads down, with Richardson playing the sheet anchor role.

He looked set for his century before medium-pace Chetan Sharma had him lbw — a decision which obviously upset

the West Indian.

Jeff Dujon, who had partnered Richardson for more than an hour before tea, went for 14 shortly after with a straight, hard catch back to Shastri.

A useful, if chancy, partnership of 42 between Clyde Butts and Winston Davis, with the latter hitting his way to a creditable 30, pushed the score past the Indian total and then to 300, when Davis hit a simple return catch to Sharma.

The final session was enlivened by a superb piece of fielding from Shastri.

Courtney Walsh lofted the ball to deep mid-off. Shastri, running hard, failed to take the catch but with superb athleticism took it on the bounce, turned and threw for wicketkeeper Kiran More to apparently run out Butts, going for a third run.

Umpire Ram Babu Gupta, unsighted, thought Shastri had carried the ball over the line and signalled a six. To protests from Shastri and others he rescinded it but refused the run out, declaring the ball dead and no runs scored at all.

This satisfied nobody, so after further argument Walsh was

given two runs and a further lease on life, which he lost three minutes later attempting another huge hit which Srikanth took at deep mid-on.

At the close, the not out batsmen were Butts on 17 and Patrick Patterson on 21.

Shastri was the most economical of the bowlers with three for 67 from 25 overs while Sharma had three for 64 off 13.

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings 281 (D. Vengsarkar 51, Kapil Dev 47, C. Walsh five for 50).

WEST INDIES first innings (over-night 49 for no wicket):

G. Greenidge c Lal b Shastri 15
D. Haynes c Pandit (sub) b Shastri 58
R. Richardson lbw b Sharma 89
V. Richards b Maninder 37
A. Logie run out 37
C. Hooper lbw b Kapil Dev 37
J. Dujon c and b Shastri 14
C. Butts not out 17
W. Davis c and b Sharma 30
C. Walsh c Srikanth b Sharma 5
P. Patterson not out 12
Extras (lb-8 nb-4 w-1) 13
Total (for nine wickets) 327
Fall of wickets: 1-58 2-99 3-146 4-146 5-210 6-258 7-258 8-300 9-308.

Bowling to date: Kapil Dev 22-7-66-1, Sharma 13-1-64-3, Ayub 20-1-54-0, Maninder 17-5-68-1, Shastri 25-7-67-3.

Disputes cloud W. Indies' tour of India

BOMBAY, Dec 15, (Reuters): Wrangles surrounding the West Indians' current tour of India are adding to the raucous atmosphere in world cricket.

West Indies captain Viv Richards has felt the need to deny he is a cheat, Indian skipper Dilip Vengsarkar could be sacked over a contract dispute, umpires and schedules are under fire and even the weather has turned nasty.

In contrast to the ugly turn of events on the England tour of Pakistan, nobody wants the West Indians to go home, but there is a long tour ahead and the portents are not good.

The trouble began last week at Nagpur during the first of eight scheduled one-day internationals.

Bounce

Vengsarkar played a ball which Richards appeared to take at first bounce and umpire Rajan Mehra turned down the West Indian appeal.

Richards threw down the ball, kicked it and stormed over to the umpire to complain, aided by half his team.

Mehra consulted colleague Vikram Raju and changed his mind.

Vengsarkar was reluctant to walk but eventually did so, leaving the field to a chorus of booing echoed the next day in the press.

"Viv Richards' ugly and unpardonable behaviour," was matched by the "fickle and weak-minded" umpiring, said the biggest-circulation Indian Express.

"Are our umpires going to allow themselves to be pressured by the visiting captain and players?" asked the Indian post.

"I have never played my cricket in any way that I would cheat a batsman out. It was a clean and fair catch and that is all there is to it," said Richards in his newspaper column.

But the damage was done and it was compounded in the public's eyes when West Indies won that match by 10 runs.

So to the second Test in Bombay, where a different set of umpires seemed concerned to avoid cricket being played at all.

Declined

They delayed the start of the match for bad light, and after light rain at lunchtime declined to restart play for the same reason.

Although both teams are used to sunshine and limpid light, any of them who have played in England must have endured infinitely worse light conditions.

Rain ruled out play on the second day, for the first time in a Bombay Test.

On the third day, instead of organising mowing and rolling of the pitch and mopping and sanding the outfield as fast as possible so play could begin on time, ordered these tasks only when playing hours had actually begun.

reading the bouncy spinner. He was slightly less effective in Faisalabad and had to be content with seven for 150. Qasim was more successful with eight wickets for 128 in the two innings.

Pakistan have a fourth spinner in the squad, 17-year-old schoolboy Mushtaq Ahmad, who took six England wickets for 81 in an innings last month in a three-day practice match.

Captain Javed Miandad said pace bowler Wasim Akram was fit after missing Faisalabad with a groin strain. Medium-pace bowler Aamir Malik or batsman Shoaib Mohammad would make way for him.

Ashraf Ali, who kept wicket smartly in the second Test, will stay in the side, at the expense of Zulqarnain, after recovering from a sore throat.

England were due to name their side late today, while Ahsan said he would be announcing his team before the start of the match.

Teams:
Pakistan (from): Mudassar Nazar, Rameez Raja, Salim Malik, Javed Miandad, Ejaz Ahmad, Wasim Akram, Abdul Qadir, Ashraf Ali, Iqbal Qasim, Tauseef Ahmad, Aamir Malik, Asif Mujtaba, Shoaib Mohammad, Saleem Jaffer, Mushtaq Ahmad.

England (from): G. Gooch, C. Broad, W. Athey, M. Gatting, J. Emburey, T. Robinson, B. French, E. Hemmings, P. DeFreitas, N. Foster, G. Dilley, N. Cook, N. Fairbrother, D. Capel.

Germans seek victory over Argentina

Buenos Aires, Dec 15, (Reuters): West Germany will be seeking to avenge their 1986 World Cup final defeat by Argentina when the two sides meet in a friendly tomorrow.

The match, which kicks off at the Velez Sarsfield stadium at 2100 GMT, is the third between the two sides since World Cup-winning coach Carlos Bilardo took the helm for Argentina and Franz Beckenbauer became West Germany's manager.

The first in Dusseldorf in September 1984 marked the managerial debut of "Kaiser" Franz. His team were beaten 3-1 on that occasion.

Argentina were without Diego Maradona in the 1984 encounter but he will captain the world champions in the 10th match between the two nations.

Going
The Argentines have the overall edge with four wins to three but West Germany, going into their ninth match of the year, are unbeaten in 1987.

Argentina, in contrast, are looking for only their second win since their Mexico triumph and finished a poor fourth in the South American championship they hosted in July.

Bilardo is hoping he has to make only two changes to the team that beat the Germans 3-2 in the World Cup final, although a training injury to midfielder Ricardo Giusti last week could force a third change if the player does not recover in time.

Bilardo said that if the match were not a friendly he would not field Jorge Valdano and Jorge Burruchaga, who have only recently recovered from illness and injury respectively.

May and Sleep find flaws in Kiwis' technique

Australia-New Zealand draw 2nd Test

ADELAIDE, Dec 15, (Reuters): The Australian spinners gained a useful psychological edge over New Zealand's batsmen as the second cricket Test meandered to a draw today.

New Zealand, starting their second innings 11 runs behind, were 182 for seven at the close of the fifth and final day. Australia were dismissed for 496 early this morning.

Technique
Off-spinner Tim May and leg-spinner Peter Sleep both took three wickets, finding flaws in the New Zealanders' technique which they will aim to exploit on the more receptive pitch at Melbourne in the third and final Test starting on December 26. Australia lead the series 1-0.

A positive result looked possible briefly early in the afternoon when Martin Crowe's dismissal for eight left the New Zealanders at 77 for three.

But a hard-hitting 64 from Andrew Jones, following his career-best 150 in the first innings, snuffed out Australia's hopes and the umpires ended the match 30 minutes early.

New Zealand paceman Richard Hadlee wrapped up the

Australian innings with the final ball of the first over of the day.

The wicket of Bruce Reid, caught behind for five without adding to his side's overnight score, gave Hadlee five wickets in a Test innings for the 30th time in his 72-Test career.

Sleep and May, who bowled impressively in his Test debut, were aided by some sharp close to the wicket fielding.

Border took three catches, helping Sleep to dismiss both Martin Crowe and Jones, while David Boon moved from his normal position at slip to short leg and claimed two victims.

May ended with three for 68 off 30 overs while Sleep finished with three for 61 off 32.

Allan Border won the Man of the Match award for his first Test double century during which he overtook Greg Chappell to become Australia's most prolific Test batsman.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings 496 for nine declared (A. Jones 150, M. Crowe 137).

AUSTRALIA first innings (over-night 496 for nine wickets):

G. Marsh c Gray b Hadlee 36
D. Boon b Hadlee 30
D. Jones c Smith b Hadlee 0



Border: Man of the Match

A. Border c Smith b Bracewell 285
S. Waugh lbw b Sleep 61
P. Sleep c Smith b Morrison 62
M. Veletta c sub Rutherford b Bracewell

Australians against neutral umpires

MELBOURNE, Dec 15, (Reuters): The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) does not support Pakistan's decision to seek neutral umpires for the third Test against England in Karachi, starting tomorrow.

ACB executive director David Richards said the

board believed all umpires were neutral in a decision-making sense.

He added the ACB had not been contacted by either England or Pakistan about the availability of Australian umpires to officiate in the Karachi Test.

"Certainly there would not be enough time for someone to go over if the Test starts tomorrow."

In any event we'd rather not get involved in what really is a matter for both England and Pakistan to resolve between themselves," Richards said.

Pakistan and England agree on umpires for final Test

KARACHI, Dec 15, (Reuters): Pakistan and England have agreed on two local umpires for the third cricket Test, averting the threat of another row, a senior Pakistani cricket official said today.

Pakistan cricket board (BCCP) secretary Ejaz Butt told reporters England manager Peter Lush had been offered Mahboob Shah and Khizar Hayat for the game and had accepted.

"The touring team had no objection to the two umpires," he said. The third and final Test of England's troubled tour begins tomorrow.

Approached

Butt said attempts to bring umpires from India had been unsuccessful as the officials approached were not free to come.

In Bombay, an Indian cricket official said a Pakistani request to send two umpires had been turned down.

The secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Ranbir Singh, told reporters the request had arrived only yesterday.

"The board feels the time is too short to consider the request ... we didn't even make an attempt to meet (it)," Singh said, adding that a telegram had been sent to the Pakistani board informing them of the decision.

The issue had threatened to cause a new dispute at the end of a tour marred by clashes over the umpiring.

The BCCP had initially named Hayat and Shakil Khan, the

umpire at the centre of a blazing row during the first Test in Lahore, according to informed sources.

Lush had objected strongly and Pakistan, which has been campaigning for the introduction of third-country umpires for international cricket, had proposed looking abroad.

Mahboob Shah was one of the Pakistani umpires during the recent World Cup and is widely respected in the England camp.

Khizar Hayat officiated in the controversial second Test in Faisalabad last week, but was not directly involved in the row which halted play there for more than a day.

England captain Mike Gatting exchanged heated words on the second day with the other umpire, Shakhbar Rana, who refused to carry on until he received an apology.

Gatting eventually complied, under pressure from England's Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), but the affair left the England camp seething with discontent.

Tensions were already high after the Lahore Test, where opener Chris Broad refused to leave the crease on being given out caught behind by the 35-year-old Shakil Khan.

He earned a reprimand for his defiance, but many of the England players were angry at the umpire's decisions during the game and blamed them for Pakistan's overwhelming victory.

Earlier today, Pakistan manager Haseeb Ahsan had told reporters England would be all-



Qadir: expected to play

owed to choose the umpires they preferred in the final game from the host country's Test panel.

Ahsan contrasted this offer with the treatment Pakistan had received from the TCCB during their tour earlier this year.

"I wasn't given the choice last summer in England to pick the umpires we preferred. Despite our requests, the TCCB refused to change David Constant and Ken Palmer," he said. "But we have more grace and hospitality."

Two top TCCB officials, chairman Raman Subba Row

and chief executive Alan Smith, flew to Karachi to help deal with the crisis. After a meeting with the England players they said Gatting had the full backing of the board as captain.

The bearded Middlesex batsman has sworn never to return to Pakistan after this tour, but Ahsan shed no tears.

"Nobody will ever forget the way he behaved with the umpire," Ahsan told reporters in Karachi. "The words he used to umpire Shakoor Rana result in murders in this country."

"Imagine the youngsters who



Vengsarkar: could be sacked

Off the pitch as well as on, Indian cricket seems doomed to controversy.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had no sooner appointed Vengsarkar captain than it turned its guns on him.

The BCCI has threatened to fine and even sack him for breach of contract unless he stops writing a newspaper column, specifically forbidden in the contract he signed last month.

For years past Indian Test stars have been airing their opinions in the press despite the wording of their contracts.

Former captains Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev did so with impunity and the Indian media are unanimous the BCCI is getting tough this time only because Vengsarkar has yet to build himself an adoring public, and so presents an easy target.

Awalt
Vengsarkar said today he would await the outcome of an Indian Cricket Board meeting next week before deciding his action over the dispute.

"We will wait for the board to decide its course of action at its meeting on December 22," Vengsarkar told reporters after end of play in the first match today.

The Indian team have rallied to their skipper's support defending his right to write and saying if the board moved against him they would take unspecified "suitable action."

The anger of the BCCI has also been visited on the Cricket Association of Bengal for signing up the West Indians to play a fund-raising match against India in Calcutta on January 2 but omitting to ask the board's permission.

The main attraction of the match to all concerned is the money, with a promise of \$38,000 to the West Indians for the extra match above their fee for the series.

Need
The BCCI wants to call the Calcutta match part of the official one-day series, thus obviating the need for extra payment and reasserting its own authority.

The disputes rumble on. And if the Pakistan cricketing strife has captured the major attention so far, there is plenty of time for India to catch up. The West Indians will be here until February.

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Bridge

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club Christmas tournament played on Sunday:

1st Greta Jones & Jo De Lange
2nd Doris Kimber & Ely Lammerts
3rd Lily Akel-Jendi & Jean Akel
The bridge club will reopen on Sunday, January 3.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Euro-qualifier

ATHENS, Dec 15, (Reuters): Greece will field a team of juniors against the Netherlands tomorrow in their European Soccer Championship qualifying match in protest at a European Football Union's (UEFA) decision to replay the Netherlands-Cyprus match. Greek soccer authorities said.

Fifa decision

LONDON, Dec 15, (Reuters): The Welsh FA are to ask the International Football Federation (Fifa) to reconsider their decision to abandon play-offs between second-placed teams in the three four-team European groups in the qualifying tournament for the 1990 World Cup finals.

49ers triumph

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 15, (AP): Jerry Rice caught three touchdown passes and Steve Young, replacing the injured Joe Montana, threw for four scores last night as San Francisco routed turnover-plagued Chicago 41-0 to take command of the National Football Conference race for the Super Bowl.

Rangers' fans

GLASGOW, Dec 15, (Reuters): Glasgow Rangers yesterday asked their supporters to stay home and not follow the Scottish soccer champions to their European Cup quarterfinal match in March.

Cup pairing

LONDON, Dec 15, (AP): Officials on both sides of the politically sensitive border have welcomed the pairing of Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland in the qualifying rounds for soccer's 1990 World Cup.

NHL game

NEW YORK, Dec 15, (AP): John Ogrudnick's power-play broke a 3-3 tie with 8:59 remaining to give the New York Rangers to a 4-3 NHL victory over the Detroit Red Wings last night.

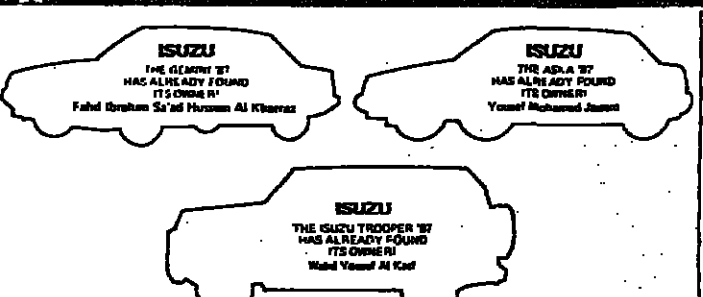
Vacant job

LONDON, Dec 15, (UPI): Keith Burkinshaw, the former Tottenham manager currently in charge of Sporting Lisbon in the Portuguese Soccer League, is the latest name to be linked with the vacant job at Second Division Leicester.

English League

LONDON, Dec 15, (AP): The English Football League today demanded publisher Robert Maxwell to drop all his interests in three English professional soccer clubs before he could take over a fourth, Watford.

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